

# STARS AND STRIPES®

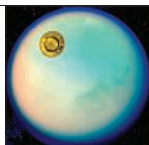
**Fossil shows  
mammals ate  
small dinosaurs**

Page 11



**Lawsuit brought  
against major  
e-mail spammer**

Page 10



**European space  
probe lands on  
Saturn moon**

Page 15

Volume 2, No. 278 © SS 2005 MIDEAST EDITION

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 2005

# Women in combat prohibition to remain

Army secretary says policy has been reviewed, upheld

Page 6

## The MVP

vs.

## The Champs

■ Colts-Patriots matchup  
highlights second round  
of NFL playoffs

Back page



■ Focus on Falcons' Vick  
against revitalized Rams

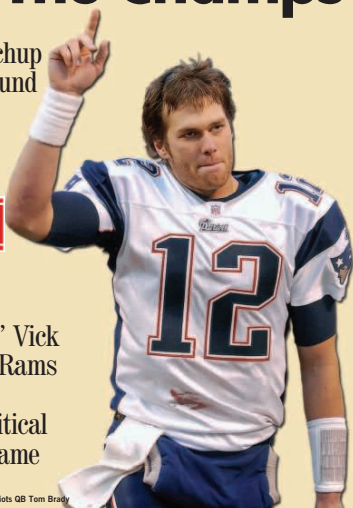
Page 30

■ Quarterbacks critical  
in Jets-Steelers game

Page 29



Colts QB Peyton Manning



Patriots QB Tom Brady

Remember to  
thank your  
Command  
for today's  
copy of Stars  
and Stripes.



Your Stars and Stripes is  
now printed and  
delivered locally from  
Afghanistan, Kuwait,  
Iraq, and Qatar giving  
you up-to-date daily  
news, sports and  
entertainment.

Without the assistance  
of local commands,  
your friends and fellow  
soldiers would be  
isolated without news  
from home.

Contact  
Stars and Stripes  
circulation with  
questions about  
delivery at

49-6155-601-455  
DSN: 349-8455

To contact a reporter  
in the field, email  
iraq@mail.estripes.osd.mil

STARS & STRIPES  
Your Hometown Newspaper

## NewsTracker ... What's new with old news

### Military

**Air Force investigation:** A two-star general recently dismissed as the Air Force's top military lawyer for engaging in "unprofessional relationships" with female subordinates will be retired at the rank of colonel, costing him an estimated \$900,000 in future retirement pay, officials said Monday.

The decision was announced by Air Force Secretary James G. Roche, who said Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Fiskus, the former Judge Advocate General of the Air Force, will retire effective Feb. 1.

In its investigation of Fiskus, the Air Force Inspector General substantiated three categories of allegations: unprofessional relationships with female subordinates, inappropriate sexual advances toward female subordinates, and improper relationships with female civilians. The incidents happened over a 10-year period and involved 13 women, the Air Force statement said.

**Military policy questioned:** The number of Arabic linguists discharged from the military for violating its "don't ask, don't tell" policy is higher than previously reported, according to records obtained by a research group.

The group contends the records show that the military — at a time when it and U.S. intelligence agencies don't have enough Arabic speakers — is putting its anti-gay stance ahead of national security.

Between 1998 and 2004, the military discharged 20 Arabic and six Persian speakers, according to Department of Defense data obtained by the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military under a Freedom of Information Act request.

The military previously confirmed that seven translators who specialized in Arabic had been discharged between 1998 and 2003 because they were gay. The military did not break down the discharges by year, but said some, but not all, of the additional 13 discharges of Arabic speakers occurred in 2004.

### World

**Ukraine election dispute:** The campaign of Viktor Yanukovich, officially the loser of Ukraine's presidential election, delivered several hundred volumes of documents to the Supreme Court on Friday in another attempt to overturn the vote.

But pro-Western winner Viktor Yushchenko indicated he was confident the court will reject the appeal, ordering his supporters to remove their tent camp in downtown Kiev.

City authorities have repeatedly urged the removal of the tents, concerned about declining sanitary conditions. Residents had vowed to stay in their tents until Yushchenko's inauguration, which has been delayed by his rival's numerous legal challenges.

### States

**Skakel murder conviction:** Lawyers for Michael Skakel argue that the Kennedy cousin is convicted of bludgeoning a 15-year-old neighbor when he was a teen should be set free because authorities waited too long to prosecute him.

Skakel's lawyers argue that state law at the time Martha Moxley was killed in 1975 set a five-year limit for prosecution of all cases except those that could carry the death penalty. Skakel was not charged with a capital offense in 2000.

Prosecutors contend Connecticut has never set a deadline to try murder cases. They say that the nature of the crime, not the potential punishment, determines whether it is subject to the time limit.

Arguments on Skakel's appeal were scheduled Friday morning before the state Supreme Court. The high court was not expected to rule Friday.

"Dimebag" Darrell Abbott shooting: The



**Robert Blake trial:** Los Angeles Police Department detective Ron Ito, left, works with prosecutor Shellee Samuels, sitting in car at right, to position the passenger's side seat of a car that police say is a copy of the car Robert Blake's wife died in Los Angeles. Jurists in Blake's trial went on a field trip to the site Thursday, where prosecutors recreated the scene where the actor's wife was killed in 2001.

gunman who killed a heavy metal guitarist and three others last month fired 15 shots and had 35 more rounds of ammunition when a police officer fatally shot him, authorities said.

Nathan Gale, 25, of Marysville, Ohio, shot and killed former Pantera guitarist "Dimebag" Darrell Abbott and three others when they tried to intervene during a concert Dec. 8 at the Alrosa Villa nightclub in Columbus.

Investigators said Thursday they believe Gale fired 10 shots, reloaded and fired five more before Officer James Niggemeyer killed him.

**Ex-undercover agent perjury trial:** Jurors in the perjury trial of a former undercover agent who sent dozens of blacks to prison on phony drug charges will decide his fate without hearing him testify.

Defense attorneys rested their case Thursday in Tom Coleman's trial without calling the agent to the stand. Prosecutors were scheduled to present a brief rebuttal Friday before both sides made closing arguments.

Coleman is accused of two counts of perjury for allegedly lying about his 1998 arrest for allegedly using a government-issued gasoline card to fill his personal vehicle while he was working as a Cochran County deputy.

**Logging injunction:** An appeals court Thursday lifted its injunction barring salvage logging from the site of the nation's worst wildfire in 2002 — an issue that has pitted environmentalists against the timber industry and Bush administration.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals decided a lower court judge did not abuse his discretion when he refused to stop salvage logging on old-growth forest in the Rogue-River Siskiyou National Forest in southwestern Oregon.

Six timber sales amounting to 47 million board feet were conducted in the area and brought \$2 million.

Lifting the preliminary injunction "will allow us to move forward with economic recovery and restoration of the land," said forest supervisor Scott Conroy.

The appeal of the lower court's ruling will be heard March 22.

**Ga. sheriff's firings:** More than two dozen employees fired by a sheriff on his first day on the job returned to work under court order Thursday, but were given low-ranking positions at the county jail.

The employees, mostly deputies and officers, were fired by Clayton County Sheriff Victor Hill on Jan. 3. A day later, a judge ordered Hill to rehire them amid questions of whether they were terminated without cause, in violation of civil service rules.

The workers also are challenging their dismissals in federal court, claiming they were racially and politically motivated. Those fired include four of the highest-ranking officers, all of them white. Hill, who is black, has denied any discrimination.

**Execution ethics:** A Kentucky medical board dismissed an ethics complaint Thursday against Gov. Ernie Fletcher, saying he was acting as a head of state rather than a trained physician when he ordered a killer's execution.

In a unanimous decision, a panel of the Kentucky Medical Licensure Board found "no merit" in the claim that it was unethical for Fletcher to sign a death warrant because he is a doctor.

American Medical Association guidelines prohibit doctors from participating in executions. Kentucky law says doctors must follow the AMA ethical guidelines.

**Evacuation drill:** The communities around the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Brattleboro, Vt., will make another attempt at a test evacuation of schools following a flawed drill last month.

The second drill is scheduled for Feb. 15, Brattleboro Town Manager Jerry Remillard said.

During the Dec. 16 drill, nearly 1,000 Vermont students could not be evacuated from schools because of a shortage of school buses.

**Rosa Parks trial:** Civil rights figure Rosa Parks has had dementia since at least 2002, according to medical records released as part of a legal fight over a hip-hop song titled with her name.

Parks' relatives claim she never would have agreed to the lawsuit if she had understood it.

The medical records, which a judge ordered released Monday, show a doctor's note indicated that Parks, 91, suffered from "progressive dementia," or severe mental impairment. The notes were shared with another doctor in October 2002, but the records don't show when they were written or when she was diagnosed, the Detroit Free Press reported Thursday.

Stories and photo from wire reports

# Three U.S. troops killed in Iraq violence

## Rebels kidnap 15 Iraqi soldiers

BY ELLEN KNICKMEYER

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Three U.S. troops were killed Friday, as Sunni Muslim militants claimed responsibility for the assassination of a community leader promoting the election on behalf of Iraq's top Shiite cleric.

Attackers also fired on a bus carrying Iraqi national guard members near Baghdad, about 90 miles west of Baghdad, on Friday, kidnapping 15 guardsmen and leaving the bus in flames, a guard official said.

The Sunni Muslim group of Ansar al-Islam said it targeted Sheikh Mahmud Finjan, who was shot to death on Wednesday, as a supporter of the Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, and "as a big supporter of the elections."

A separate ambush in Iraq's north killed three officials of a party representing Iraq's Kurds — like the Shiites, working aggressively for a high turnout in a vote expected to play a large measure of power from Iraq's long-dominant Sunni minority.

The U.S. military reported some of the latest violence Friday — the deaths of three U.S. troops in two provinces feared to be too violence-wrecked for the vote.

Two Marines of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force died in action Thursday in the western province of Anbar, the U.S. military said in a statement.

And the 1st Infantry Division soldier died while supporting Task Force Olympia operations around the volatile northern city of Mosul the same day, the military said. American forces gave no details.

U.S. Secretary-General Goffi Annan, meanwhile, said condi-



U.S. soldiers survey the scene after an attack on their convoy, in Baghdad's Dora district, on Friday. Two soldiers were wounded when a roadside bomb overturned their armored vehicle, witnesses said.

tions for the Jan. 30 national elections were "far from ideal" and Iraqi officials should intensify efforts to make the balloting inclusive.

"We... call upon all brother citizens not to participate in the elections because we are going to attack voting centers," Ansar al-Islam said in the statement claiming responsibility for killing Finjan, renewing Sunni extremist demands for a boycott of the balloting.

The message was posted on a Web site used by insurgents.

Established after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, Ansar al-Islam is one of Iraq's older extremist groups — predating even the U.S. toppling of Saddam Hussein. The group has been linked to al-Qaida.

In other election-related violence, gunmen killed an Iraqi election official in western Baghdad late Thursday, police said, mark-

ing at least the seventh such killing ahead of the vote.

Attackers in a passing car fired upon Abdul Karim Jassim al-Ubeidi as he headed home, police Capt. Imad Thamin said. A group led by Jordanian militant leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi claimed responsibility in a separate Web site statement for that killing.

Witnesses said attackers opened fire apparently with rocket-propelled grenades — on the bus as the guard members were heading to a local U.S. military headquarters. A Baghdad guard official who identified himself only as Lt. Col. Hesham said 15 were kidnapped.

Separately, 28 Iraqi prisoners escaped as they were being transported by bus from the Abu Ghraib prison west of Baghdad to another facility, Lt. Col. Barry Johnson said Friday.

Shiite and Kurdish enthusiasm for the vote has held strong despite attacks.

On Friday, even a radical Shiite cleric officially opposed to the vote appeared to open low-key campaigning, although he is not running.

The cleric, Muqtada al-Sadr, was behind militia confrontations with U.S. troops last year in the holy city of Najaf and Baghdad's Shiite stronghold of Sadr City.

Guards at a mosque in the neighborhood handed out pro-election leaflets to worshippers at Friday prayers. "Your vote is as precious as gold as long as you obey God," the leaflets said, under al-Sadr's personal seal.

Another Mosul attack Thursday saw gunmen ambush a car carrying officials of the Kurdish Democratic Party, killing three of them, a party official said.

The Kurdish Democratic Party of Massoud Barzani is one of two main factions of Iraq's Kurds, who make up about 20 percent of the population.

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Thursday, at least 1,356 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,069 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said.

The figures include three military civilians.

The British military has reported 76 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 16; Ukraine, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,218 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 960 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No deaths reported.

The latest identification reported by the military:

■ Army Spc. Michael J. Smith, 24, Media, Pa., killed Tuesday when a rocket-propelled grenade hit his vehicle in Ramadi, Iraq; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Casey, South Korea.

# General: No 'guarantee' troops could stop big attack on Baghdad

BY JASON KEYSER

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A senior U.S. commander acknowledged Friday that an insurgent campaign of violence and intimidation may keep people from voting in troubled sectors of the Iraqi capital.

Brig. Gen. Jeffery Hammond, deputy commander of the 1st Cavalry Division controlling the Baghdad area, warned of an expected surge in bombings and other violence as the Jan. 30 vote draws near and said there were no guarantees Iraq and American forces could stop a "spectacular" attack causing mass casualties in Baghdad.

"If I told you I could guarantee that I'd be a fool," Hammond told reporters.

The province surrounding the Iraqi capital is one of the areas where American officials have said security remains a problem.

Following November's military assault on the former insurgent

**"But at the end of the day, the responsibility for this election doesn't rest with us. No doubt about that. This is their (the Iraqis) election."**

Brig. Gen. Jeffery Hammond

deputy commander of the 1st Cavalry Division controlling the Baghdad area

power base of Fallujah, many of that city's fighters are thought to have slipped into Baghdad and other areas.

As in the rest of the country on election day, the 35,000 U.S. troops in Baghdad will stay poised on the sidelines while Iraqi police and army troops man front lines at polling stations. Whether Iraqi forces are able to secure the vote in the capital and elsewhere will be an important test for the fledgling force, which has come under criticism for poor performance and training.

Iraq's interim leaders are eager to put their forces into the lead role in hopes that the vote for

a national assembly will be seen as legitimizing despite the presence of foreign troops.

Iraq's election commission has asked U.S. forces to help transport ballots to warehouses and polling stations and to set up concrete blast barriers around polling sites ahead of the voting, Hammond said.

His troops are also rehearsing contingencies involving rapid reaction forces that could move in if asked by Iraqi authorities.

"But at the end of the day, the responsibility for this election doesn't rest with us. No doubt about that. This is their election," Hammond said.

security could have infiltrated the ranks of the police, Hammond said.

Hammond couldn't rule out that some parts of Baghdad — especially the predominantly Sunni Muslim neighborhood of Azamiyah and the treacherous Haifa Street — may not be secure enough for voting.

"There will probably be places in Baghdad that will be challenging," he said.

To combat the fire-and-run mortar squads plaguing the capital, U.S. troops have been posting snipers in trouble spots and calling in sniper squads.

The Americans have also put in place a telephone tip line and are getting about 35 calls a week in Baghdad. One tip-off led to the discovery of two cars laden with artillery in a garage not far from a building that's to be used as a polling station, Hammond said.

"People are standing up and fighting the war in secret.... More and more people are bringing us actionable intelligence," he said.

# Marine leaders urge election participation

## Anbar province election board resigned after death threats

BY JOSEPH GIORDONO

Stars and Stripes

AL ASAD, Iraq — Marine Corps officials are continuing their all-out effort to persuade Anbar province officials to participate in the upcoming elections despite skepticism about the process and the security of polling stations.

On Wednesday, Maj. Gen. Richard Natonski, 1st Marine Division commander, joined officials from the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit to brief a group of influential local sheiks, imams and political leaders on the vote, which is now just about two weeks away.

"We believe the election is the first step in repairing the situation ... to fix the infrastructure, build security forces and allow a government to be established that the Iraqi people want," Natonski said. "We want democracy in Iraq to be an Iraqi democracy, not an American democracy."

The Sunni Muslims, who dominate Anbar, are a minority in Iraq as a whole, are largely doubtful of the process, saying the Shiite majority would likely limit the Sunni turnout.

On Sunday, the entire 13-member Anbar province electoral commission resigned after members said they received death threats from insurgents. While the Independent Electoral Commission of



JOSEPH GIORDONO/Stars

Col. Leo Miller, left, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit commander, and 1st Marine Division commander Maj. Gen. Richard Natonski, second from left, meet Wednesday in Al Asad, Iraq, with a group of Anbar Province sheiks, imams and politicians. Marine officials were urging local Iraqi leaders to support upcoming elections.

Iraq quickly replaced them with commissioners from Baghdad, the move underscoring the difficulty of assuring the vote in the region.

Another problem, local officials say, is explaining to potential voters the bewildering number of candidates and parties on the ballot. According to the commission, there are more than 7,200 candidates for the 275 representative seats to the assembly, which will write Iraq's new constitution; 72 parties, 25 independent candidates and nine "coalitions" of can-

**"Right now, we're building a new democracy. And this is the first step."**

LT. Col. Andrew Horne,  
the 31st MEU election coordinator

didates have registered.

At the next level down, there are 382 lists for the nearly 8,000 candidates running for spots on the 18 provincial councils to be elected. Each council will have 41 members, except in Baghdad, which will have 51.

Any Iraqi citizen born after Dec. 31, 1986, is eligible to vote.

There will be 7,000 ballot boxes across the country, the IECC says, and more than 100,000 Iraqi security forces protecting polling stations. U.S. military officials, wary about any perception that they seek to influence the vote, have said they will not put forces at the polling stations.

Because of the continuing vio-

lence in Anbar and the large number of Iraqis displaced from cities such as Ramadi and Fallujah, Anbar residents can vote at any polling station in the province as well as three stations in Baghdad. Officials have not yet released the locations of polling sites in Anbar because they do not want them targeted for attacks.

Polls will open just after sunrise and stay open until the last voter casts a ballot.

At Wednesday's meeting on Al Asad, a sprawling air base northwest of Fallujah, U.S. officials acknowledged security concerns and political worries but urged the local officials to participate.

"We need your assistance in educating your people on what they can and should be doing to prepare for the elections," said Lt. Col. Andrew Horne, the 31st MEU election coordinator.

The local officials felt there should be more polling stations.

"The number of sites is selected by the IECC," Horne told the group. "One of the limiting factors is, there needs to be Iraqis working the polls."

The commission has mandated each polling station have at least 30 people working, a figure that adds up to more than 300 polling station workers in western Anbar Province alone.

"They may not have enough workers to man all the polling stations as is," Horne said. "If they do, we'll be pleased, but they're struggling to get the workers."

"Right now, we're building a new democracy," Horne said, meaning the Iraqis and Americans together. "And this is the first step."

E-mail Joseph Giordono at: giordono@pstripes.osd.mil

## Iraqi official expects half of voters to cast ballots Jan. 30

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A senior election official estimates that half of Iraq's 15 million eligible voters will take part in this month's national election and says that to encourage a high turnout, those living in insurgent-ravaged areas will be allowed to vote in safer communities.

Farid Ayar of Iraq's Independent Electoral Commission said he expected 7 to 8 million Iraqis to vote on Jan. 30 in a ballot seen as a major step toward fulfilling U.S. goals of building democracy here after decades of Saddam Hussein's tyranny.

"That won't be bad. It will be OK for Iraq at the moment," Ayar said Thursday outside his office in Baghdad's heavily protected Green Zone, home of the U.S. Embassy and Iraqi government offices.

Ayar said residents of Fallujah, a city west of Baghdad that suffered extensive destruction when

U.S. troops retook it from insurgents in November, will be allowed to vote in the areas where many took refuge from the fighting. Only a fraction of Fallujah's 300,000 population is living in the city.

In Mosul, Iraq's third-largest city and the scene of increased insurgent activity since December, residents in some violent neighborhoods will be allowed to vote elsewhere.

In all cases, he said, voters will be allowed to register and vote on the same day.

There are 14 million eligible voters inside Iraq, he said, plus 1.2 million abroad allowed to vote in 14 countries including the United States, Britain, Iran and Syria. Such flexibility reflects belief that high participation is important for the election's credibility.

The roughly 50 percent turnout forecast by Ayar would be respectable given the tenuous security in Baghdad — home to nearly a quarter of Iraq's 26 million peo-

ple — and the fierce insurgency to the capital's north and west.

Insurgents have killed several electoral officials in recent weeks — some in broad daylight in the heart of Baghdad. Others have quit their jobs out of fear.

"Like in any other Third World country, there will be violence and intimidation. It will not be a quiet election," Ayar said.

The Jan. 30 election will signal the emergence of Iraq's majority Shiites as the dominant group in racially and religiously diverse Iraq, ending decades of oppression by the Sunni Arab minority.

In predominantly Shiite southern Iraq and Baghdad's eastern neighborhood of Sadr City, election fever runs high. Posters and banners fill the streets and preachers in mosques and Shiite community centers urge people to vote.

One election poster features one of Saddam Hussein's tanks in front of the heavily damaged gate of one of Shiite Islam's holiest



AP

A couple in December 2004 looks at an election poster with a picture of Iraq's top Shiite Muslim cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, and one of Saddam Hussein's army tanks in front of the damaged gate of one of Shiite Islam's holiest shrines. As the majority of Sunni Muslims are expected to boycott the Jan. 30 elections, many Shiites are working to win majority seats in the National Assembly.

shrines.

The written message: "So this doesn't happen again, participate in the elections."

On Thursday, another senior U.S. military officer — 1st Infantry Division commander Maj. Gen. John Batiste — said he expected insurgents to continue attacking U.S. and Iraqi forces in

the run-up to the vote. But he said he was confident voting would happen in his area, including such hot spots as Samarra and Baquba.

"They will go after the Iraqi security forces while they can find them in small numbers," he said of the insurgents. "They will attack us from a distance."



# Commander: Long-term 'relationship' likely

Army Lt. Gen. David Barno says troop levels in Afghanistan should remain steady at 18,000

BY CHARLIE COON  
Stars and Stripes

GARMISCH, Germany — U.S. troop levels in Afghanistan should remain steady at about 18,000 this year, and troops could be stationed there until they aren't wanted, the top U.S. military commander in Afghanistan said Thursday.

Army Lt. Gen. David Barno, commander of Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan, noted that Afghan President Hamid Karzai won the election in October while campaigning on a pro-U.S. military platform.

"[Karzai] told voters, 'If you vote for me, you are voting for a long-term partnership with the Americans,'" Barno said in an interview with Stars and Stripes. "Now he feels he has a mandate among his people to have a long-term relationship. What that [relationship] is going to look like, I don't know."

"We hear all the time that the Afghans are more concerned about the Americans abandoning them than they are about Americans overstaying their welcome."

He said he didn't know if the United States would establish permanent military bases in Afghanistan similar to the U.S. gar-

risons currently in Germany and other European countries. In addition to 18,000 U.S. troops, the Kabul-based International Security Assistance Force of troops, mostly from NATO-member nations, numbers about 8,900.

Barno was in Garmisch this week for a conference among military and diplomatic leaders from Afghanistan, Pakistan and the former Soviet nations to their north.

The United States invaded Afghanistan in October 2001, one month after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, to chase down members of the al-Qaida group, which organized the attack, as well as to topple the Taliban regime that was sympathetic to al-Qaida.

In the past year, the roles of many U.S. troops in Afghanistan have changed, Barno said.

Nineteen provincial reconstruction teams, or PRTs, which include some run

by NATO forces, have been established throughout the sprawling nation. The key to their success, Barno said, was that troops have stayed in regions long enough to become known and trusted by the locals.

The teams range in size from 50-500 troops and perform a variety of missions, including construction, meeting with mullahs and elders, intelligence gathering and security. He said the PRTs are light, but not lightweight.

"These are combat forces," Barno said. "People will know they have artillery and direct-fire capability, and that air power could [arrive] in 20 minutes."

"No one is confused that those units don't have a lot of capability. Our air power allows us to work platoon-sized, 40-man groups all over the country, very small groups instead of 100-man or 800-man groups," he said.

That quick-strike capability lets the U.S. military cover a country about the size of Iraq, with about the same population as Iraq, with 18,000 troops instead of 10 times that number, he said.

When Karzai was elected in October, an 800-soldier battalion from the 82nd Airborne Division was brought into Afghan-

istan for several weeks to provide additional security.

The election went off fairly smooth, and while Barno said it's possible that reinforcement troops could be brought in to help secure local and regional elections in the spring, he expected those elections to succeed as well.

"Whatever opinion people had before [Oct. 9, when Karzai was elected president], the enemy had no impact on the election," Barno said. "The security situation continues to improve."

"There are going to be setbacks, but there is no reason they can't have the next elections on time from a security standpoint."

Other goals of the Karzai government, in which the U.S. troops would continue playing a role, include the stripping of power of local warlords and diminishing the booming poppy trade. Poppy plants are used to make heroin.

American forces will continue to support Afghan troops fighting the drug war by providing close-air support and medical evacuations, Barno said, but are not scheduled to become involved in eradicating the poppy fields.

E-mail: Charlie Coon at: coon@maine.ustripes.osd.mil



Barno

## Farewell ceremony



Spc. Arlie Warren gets a hug from his wife, Tameka, and son, Elijah, at a farewell ceremony on Sunday at Butler High School in Huntsville, Ala. Warren will be leaving for his second tour in Afghanistan on Friday, along with the rest of Company C, 926th Engineering Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve.

## NATO may cut back Iraq instructors plan

BY PAUL AMES  
The Associated Press

CASTEAU, Belgium — NATO is likely to scale back plans to send instructors to train Iraq's military, U.S. Gen. James L. Jones, the alliance's top operational commander said Friday.

He insisted the cuts were not due to NATO's difficulties in mustering troops for the mission, saying instead that Iraq's fledgling forces had proved more capable of training their own recruits.

"We're discovering, from the training aspect of things, that the Iraqis have quite a bit of capacity to do that themselves," Jones told reporters. "What the NATO mission can do is obviously take advantage of that and incorporate it into our overall scheme."

Jones said the current target was to raise the about 100 NATO soldiers presently in Iraq to 159. Last month, the alliance said it wanted to put 300 instructors and support staff on the ground at the start of this year.

Speaking at NATO's military headquarters in southern Belgium, Jones said U.S. Lt. Gen. David Petraeus, who commands the training effort in Iraq, had "revised his concept" of the mission.

Jones acknowledged that last year's estimate of a longer-term deployment of 300 instructors and up to 3,000 guards and other backup was more than will be needed.

"As it turns out, it was considerably less than that," he said.

NATO has been struggling to persuade governments to commit extra troops to both its missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. In Iraq, the problem has been compounded by the refusal of France, Ger-

many and other nations that opposed the U.S. led war to send trainers.

"Obviously that makes it more difficult, when you have to generate the force," Jones acknowledged. But he said that was not forcing the alliance to scale back its plans.

"There is plenty of capacity in NATO to provide trainers (but) I don't think we want to send any more down to Iraq than we have to," Jones said. "It's positive that the Iraqis can do more for themselves and when they can do that we should take advantage of it."

Jones also suggested the development of Afghanistan's own forces and a more peaceful climate in that country could mean that NATO needed to send fewer peacekeepers than expected to expand its mission there.

NATO currently has around 8,000 peacekeepers in Kabul and northern Afghanistan. Next month it is expected to announce an expansion into a western sector around the city of Herat, with several hundred more troops.

Jones said the number of reinforcements planned to support parliamentary elections planned for the spring could be less than anticipated because of a decline in the threat level.

"The ability of an organized insurgency to muster a cohesive military capability seems to be on the decline."

In Iraq, he said NATO would focus on providing training for senior officers and developing courses and curriculums for Iraqi instructors. However, he said NATO still planned to move its training out of the U.S.-protected "Green Zone" in Baghdad to help run an Iraqi military academy outside the capital.

Sgt. Kevin Benderman and his wife, Monica, sit at their Hinesville, Ga., home. Benderman, a veteran of the 2003 invasion of Iraq, applied for conscientious objector status prior to his battalion's deployment back to Iraq. JOHN CARRINGTON, SAVANNAH MORNING NEWS AP



## Objector could face court-martial

BY RUSS BYNUM  
The Associated Press

SAVANNAH, Georgia — A mechanic with nine years in the Army, including a role in the assault on Baghdad, has refused to return to Iraq, claiming "you just don't know how bad it is."

Sgt. Kevin Benderman, 40, said he became morally opposed to war after seeing it firsthand during his first Iraq tour. Now he faces a possible court-martial after failing to deploy Friday with his unit.

"I told them that I refused deployment because I just couldn't go back over there," Benderman said Wednesday. "If I'm going to sit up there and tell everyone that I do not believe in war, why would I go back to a war zone?"

Lt. Col. Cliff Kent, a Fort Stewart spokesman, said Benderman was being considered absent without leave because he had orders to deploy to Iraq while the Army processed his conscientious objector claim.

"He was AWOL from the unit's movement," Kent said. "Beginning the application process for conscientious objection does not preclude you from deploying."

Benderman has been reassigned to a rear detachment unit at Fort Stewart while his case is pro-

cessed, Kent said. Kent said the Army has not decided whether to bring charges against him.

Gaining objector status is a time-consuming process for soldiers, requiring meetings with counselors and a chaplain with lengthy paperwork reviewed far up the chain of command. Under military law, a person must be opposed to war in all forms to be considered a conscientious objector.

"If a person said, 'I'm not opposed to war, but I'm opposed to the Iraq war,' they would not qualify," said Louis Hiken, an attorney with the Military Law Task Force of the National Lawyers Guild.

Filing an objector claim does not prevent the Army from prosecuting soldiers for disobeying orders.

In May, a Fort Stewart court-martial sentenced Staff Sgt. Camilo Mejia of the Florida National Guard to a year in prison for desertion despite his pending objector application. Mejia filed his claim after refusing to return to his unit in Iraq while home on leave.

In December, a soldier who re-enlisted with the Marines after becoming a Seventh-Day Adventist was jailed for refusing to pick up a gun. Cpl. Joel D. Klimpewicz, 24, of Birch Run, Michigan, told his superiors he was a conscientious objector and cited his new religious status. It was rejected in March 2004.

## Harvey: No combat for female GIs in 'transformed' Army

BY LISA BURGESS  
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Women will not be allowed to serve in combat positions in the new "transformed" Army, according to a decision made by senior service leaders and approved Thursday by Army Secretary Francis Harvey.

The Army has been reviewing its policy prohibiting women in combat ever since last year, when service leaders decided to shift emphasis from large, old-fashioned divisions to "Brigade Combat Teams" that are much more flexible and lethal than today's organizations.

Under a 10-year-old ban, women are not allowed to be part of combat units, such as armored cavalry or the infantry.

After reviewing the Army's existing policy, "my assessment is that, in our new Brigade Combat Teams ... no women will be assigned to a unit below the brigade level whose primary mission is direct ground combat," Harvey said in a Jan. 13 memo obtained Friday by Stripes to Sen. John Warner, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

In addition to prohibiting women from taking jobs that are directly related to combat, the new policy also means that women will not be routinely co-located with units assigned a direct combat mission," the memo says.

Since the new policy is the same as the Army's current Com-

bat Exclusion Rule, "no change to the extant policy is required," the memo says.

There is a clause in the ban, Public Law 103-160 signed by then-Defense Secretary Les Aspin in 1994, that says women are not allowed to serve "where units and positions are doctrinally required to physically collocate and remain with direct ground combat units that are closed to women."

But women are not banned from such tasks as driving trucks, working in mess halls, repairing helicopters, and other jobs that either hold the potential for enemy attacks, or require close proximity to combat units.

And because combat units cannot do their jobs without maintenance and other support assistance, "there have been support units attached to maneuver units" in both Afghanistan and Iraq that include women, Army officials have noted.

Harvey reiterated that the clause will remain in effect.

But opponents of women serving in war were angered in October when Army officials said they were considering changes to the exclusion rules.

Harvey conducted "a systemic review of all Army policies" after he was sworn in Nov. 19, 2004, according to his memo.

Based on that review, and a subsequent review undertaken by Army staff, Harvey decided not to make changes to the Army's current policy.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: [burgessl@stripes.osd.mil](mailto:burgessl@stripes.osd.mil)

## Graner's Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse trial goes to jury

BY T.A. BADGER  
The Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas — Spc. Charles Graner Jr. and other Abu Ghraib guards beat up and humiliated detainees at the Baghdad prison simply for the fun of it, prosecutors told a jury Friday during closing arguments.

The panel of four Army officers and six senior enlisted men began their deliberations in the late morning. Seven jurors must vote to convict on each charge for Graner to be found guilty. Graner faces five charges.

Capt. Chris Graveline, one of the prosecutors, recounted alleged abuse, buttressing many with photos and video taken by guards inside the prison in November 2003, to make the case that Graner was a sadistic soldier who took pleasure in seeing detainees suffer.

"It was for sport, for laughs," Graveline said. "What we have

here is plain abuse. There is no justification."

Defense lawyer Guy Womack countered that his client and other Abu Ghraib guards were under extreme pressure from intelligence agents to use physical violence to prepare detainees for questioning.

"It was a persistent, consistent set of orders," said Womack.

"To soften up the detainees, to do things so we can interrogate them successfully in support of our mission ... we had men and women being killed."

Graner, a 36-year-old reservist from Uniontown, Pa., is the first soldier to be tried on charges arising from the prison scandal. He is charged with conspiracy, assault, dereliction of duty and committing indecent acts and could get 17½ years in a military prison.

Womack reminded jurors that Saddam Hussein was not yet in U.S. custody when the alleged abuse occurred.

"There was somebody very important on everybody's mind," he said. "Wouldn't it be logical to have your interrogators use pressure to get information to try to find him?"

Womack described the notorious photos taken inside the prison as "yellows humor" arising from unrelenting stress felt by the Abu Ghraib guards.

He also tried to plant the seed that Graner and the other low-level guards were patsies in a cover-up to protect Army officers once those photos went public.

Among other things, Graner is accused of stacking naked detainees in a human pyramid and later ordering them to masturbate while other soldiers took photographs. He also allegedly punched one man in the head hard enough to knock him out, and struck an injured prisoner with a collapsible metal stick.

Graner did not testify during the

four-day trial, which included testimony from three guards who had made plea deals with prosecutors.

Two other guards are awaiting trial, along with Pfc. Lynndie England, a clerk at Abu Ghraib who recently gave birth to a baby believed to be fathered by Graner.

Womack said Thursday that there was no need for Graner to tell his version of what went on inside the prison because his other witnesses were so effective in making the case.

The final two witnesses testified that intelligence officers wanted detainees roughed up, and that they praised guards for their performance.

Graveline used some of Graner's own e-mails as evidence of how much he enjoyed the pain he inflicted on detainees. In one e-mail, he described beating on prisoners as "a good upper-body workout, but hard on the hands."

The e-mail messages were

given to jurors Tuesday. The New York Times, which said it got them from a person close to the defense, reported that they were sent to Graner's family and friends, including his young children.

Graveline also incorporated an earlier comment by Womack, who sought to play down the pyramid incident by saying that cheerleaders build pyramids every day.

The prosecution said that might be a valid comparison if the cheerleaders were stripped naked and roughed up first.

Womack said during his closing that there was nothing wrong with stripping what the prisoners, referred to as "terrorists," and "stacking them into a pyramid to control them."

"They did it in a safe manner so nobody would get hurt ... It was an ingenuitous move," he said. "There was nothing wrong, it was that they took a picture and they were smiling."



Photos courtesy of the Naval Oceanographic Office

**Above: Members of Naval Oceanographic Office's Fleet Survey Team, Lt. Cmdr. Anthony Gilles and Lt. Richard Kennedy Jr., collect geodetic measurements in Iraq. Right: Surveyors ready for a mission. Navy surveyors are checking out changes to the ocean floor caused by recent tsunamis.**



# Navy to chart ocean floor after tsunami

BY LEO SHANE III  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Last month's deadly tsunami wreaked havoc underwater too. Waves smashed navigation buoys, dragged sandbars into shipping channels, lifted reefs and other obstacles hundreds of feet in some spots and tossed debris everywhere.

Navy cartographers say navigation through the Indian Ocean will be problematic for years due to last month's violent earthquake and deadly tsunami, both of which altered normal shipping routes.

"Most of those charts have to be redone," said Steve Honda, spokesman for the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. "Until we actually get out there, we won't know how much has changed."

Officials from the U.S. Geological Survey said most non-sailors won't notice the changes; typical textbook maps and reference globes don't show the area in enough detail to highlight the geographical shifts.

See related story  
on Page 14

But for sailors and commercial ships, the changes complicate movement through the region. Honda's agency, which is responsible for the U.S. Navy's nautical guides, already has received one unconfirmed report from a commercial ship in the region that the ocean floor rose nearly 1,000 feet in an international shipping lane.

Other research has shown miles of sandbars shifted and coastlines collapsing into the sea, according to Mark Jarrett, deputy director of the Naval Oceanographic Office's Survey Operations Center.

"We've been asked to go in after hurricanes to check our maps, but we've never seen anything to this scale," he said.

The undersea confusion has further com-

plicated getting aid to devastated countries, since larger ships cannot easily move into major ports because of debris obstacles. Jarrett said so far most of the supplies being moved into ruined areas have been airlifted in or transported on hovercraft-type boats, both of which are expensive.

NGA officials have issued a general warning about the potential navigation issues for ships in the region, but won't be able to offer specific route changes until surveyors can examine the area.

Jarrett said his office already has dispatched a fleet of surveyors to the region to begin rebuilding charts, especially those surrounding major ports.

Ultimately replacing markers and updating maps near the shoreline will fall to the countries affected, but U.S. personnel are now putting together initial sketches of what is in the water.

"We can tell people what debris is clogging channels, what buoys are left and put

in temporary markers," Jarrett said. "Eventually, this will require us to go back and completely rebuild charts. But we can do a rough survey in a day, maybe hours."

Survey crews launch from naval ships in the area on seven-foot rigid-bottom rafts, and use portable sonar devices to scan for potential hazards. Jarrett said once collected, that information can be transmitted to military personnel in the area almost instantaneously, giving them a larger view of what is below than their ships' sonar systems can.

Only eight surveyors are currently in the region, Jarrett said another ship with personnel and equipment is en route to help map hundreds of miles of critical underwater channels.

Honda said even with more personnel the process of rebuilding the navigation charts won't be finished anytime soon.

"We're talking about a process that's not days but years," he said.

E-mail Leo Shane at: [shane1@stripes.osd.mil](mailto:shane1@stripes.osd.mil)

# U.S. military's tsunami mission keeps aid flowing

BY JULIANA GITTLER  
Stars and Stripes

UTAPAO, Thailand — Combined Support Forces working on relief efforts in South Asia moved 3.4 million pounds of relief aid and flew 1,224 missions as of Friday, said Marine Lt. Col. Robert Krieg, a force planning team member.

About 19,500 servicemembers are deployed — 12,000 aboard ships — in support of Operation Unified Assistance, the massive U.S. military effort to help tsunami-ravaged South Asia.

In addition to the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group operating off the coast of Indonesia, heavy lift helicopters from the USS Bonhomme Richard and Expeditionary Strike Group 5 and assets from the USS Fort McHenry from Sasebo Naval Base, Japan, continued ferrying aid to Indonesia.

Krieg also said Sasebo's USS Essex Amphibious Ready Group is en route to eventually replace the Bonhomme Richard.

In Indonesia, the hardest-hit nation, military aircraft including 40 helicopters — assisted by Marine Corps landing craft, air

cushions — moved 165,000 pounds of relief aid into damaged coastal areas and finished transporting a French field clinic into the Sumatran city of Meulaboh.

U.S. Navy medics established a dental clinic and saw 100 patients Wednesday while engineers continued assessing washed-out bridges along the west coast, Krieg said.

U.S. officials continued planning the use of an Indonesian airstrip on Sabang Island off the Aceh coast. U.S. and other nations' military aircraft could use the airstrip to take pressure off the congested airport at Banda Aceh, Krieg said.

In Sri Lanka, Marine engineers conducted two cleanup projects and U.S. Coast Guard C-130s arrived to assist the airlift.

And in Thailand, military aircraft continued airlifting relief to aid agencies in Phuket. About 800 servicemembers currently are based at the mission headquarters in Utapao.

Krieg said operations overall are evolving from immediate relief assistance to sustaining refugees and others affected by the disaster.

The initial plan to bring four key components — water, airlift, medical support and engineer capabilities to remove debris — gradually is being adjusted through continued assessments and coordination with local governments to meet the changing needs.

Emphasis now is moving toward repairing essential infrastructure and preventing epidemics and disease. However, each of the three countries being assisted, Krieg said, has very different needs.

Meanwhile, the Indonesian government's recently announced restrictions on foreign military operations are not "impacting" U.S. naval forces providing relief," Rear Adm. Victor G. Guillory told Pentagon reporters in a telephone session from Utapao, Thailand.

Earlier this week, Indonesia's Vice President, Jusuf Kalla, announced that foreign troops must leave the country's restive Aceh province by the end of March, while cabinet ministers set a March 26 deadline for assuming control of tsunami relief efforts from international humanitarian groups and foreign military forces.

Guillory, who is deputy commander of

U.S. Naval forces supporting Operation Unified Assistance, the coordinated multinational relief effort, confirmed that the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier left Indonesian territorial waters Wednesday to conduct training missions by U.S. fighter jets that are based on the vessel.

However, such movements are "a routine procedure," Guillory said, underlaying reports that Jakarta's government had refused to allow Indonesia's airspace to be used for such training.

A ship as large as the Lincoln, Guillory said, requires "a great deal of room to conduct fixed-wing operations. That's why [the Lincoln] moved away from the coast for a fixed period of time."

Guillory said that the Lincoln would return to its previous station once the flight training is over.

During the fighter jet exercise, meanwhile, the Lincoln's helicopters are continuing to fly into Indonesia to carry food and water to remote communities along the devastated west coast of that country, Guillory said.

E-mail Juliana Gittler at: [gittler1@stripes.osd.mil](mailto:gittler1@stripes.osd.mil). Stars and Stripes reporter Lisa Burgess contributed to this report.

# Soldiers get a pay is data input error

BY LISA BURGESS

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Wait, don't spend that cash! The couple hundred extra bucks \$300 soldiers have seen or are about to see in their January paychecks is not a late Christmas present from Uncle Sam.

The extra money, which for most affected soldiers amounts to an additional \$200 and \$300 in their paychecks this month, is there because of a data input error made at the Defense Department's joint Defense Finance and Accounting Service, according to Col. Kenneth Crowder, DFAS' director of Army Pay Operations.

The error occurred when a DFAS employee was electronically updating the meal allowance rate for 2005 and accidentally backdated the change to 2004,

## Officials urge those affected not to spend money, say it will be taken out of their next paycheck

Crowder said in a telephone interview with Stripes on Friday from his Indianapolis office.

As a result, the Defense Department's pay computers decided that soldiers who have Army meal cards, but who are authorized for reimbursement for some meals, deserved a refund for 2004.

The refund shows up as "refund of BAS," or Basic Allowance for Subsistence, in the "entitlements" column of a soldier's Leave and Earning Statement, Crowder said.

The Army is required by law to collect the funds from any "administrative or technical error" back from soldiers in the same

month the error was made, Crowder said.

That means that most of the soldiers affected by the glitch will have the money taken back from their last January paycheck.

However, while the money will be refunded to the Army in one chunk for the vast majority of affected soldiers who were overpaid by \$200 to \$300, Army officials are bending the rules a little for the 316 soldiers who saw refunds of \$500, Crowder said.

Those individuals will get the money taken back in two installments, in order to "mitigate hardship" on soldiers who spent the money by mistake.

Army DFAS officials caught

the error around Jan. 4, Crowder said.

But because the pay system is now joint, the mistake could not be immediately corrected "without interfering with the processing of every servicemember's paycheck," Crowder said.

Soldiers, like all servicemembers, can opt to be paid monthly, or twice each month. Most elect to receive their checks twice each month, although a few do go for the monthly option, service officials said.

So most soldiers have already seen half their faux "refund," and the others will see it given and taken away in the same check at the end of the month, so in effect, "it will be a wash" on the bottom line, Crowder said.

To get the word out to soldiers not to spend the extra cash, DFAS officials sent e-mails Jan. 12 to the Army Knowledge Online account of every soldier who got money in error, explaining the situation, Crowder said.

DFAS also sent a list of affected soldiers to every one of the Army's defense military pay offices, asking officials there to check and see if any of their command's soldiers are on the list.

If a Crowder said, the pay office officials are supposed to contact the soldier's commander and ask him or her to "contact each affected soldier individually."

Meanwhile, any soldiers wondering if they were affected by the error also can call 1-800-MyPay and speak to a customer service technician, or go to [www.mypay.dfas.mil](http://www.mypay.dfas.mil) for more information.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: [burgess@stripes.osd.mil](mailto:burgess@stripes.osd.mil)

## Georgia orders a 90-day suspension on First Command

BY LEO SHANE III

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Georgia officials will bar First Command Financial Planning from selling any insurance products for 90 days for what it says is a warning not to violate military personnel's privacy, according to a strong signal, Commissioner John W. Oxendine said this week. "We're saying, 'When you sell insurance in Georgia, you're not going to hurt our military.'"

"Whenever we're talking about taking advantage of our men and women in uniform, you've got to be pre-emptive and send a strong signal," Commissioner John W. Oxendine said this week. "We're saying, 'When you sell insurance in Georgia, you're not going to hurt our military.'"

The three-month suspension comes weeks after First Command agreed to pay an \$8 million fine and refund about \$4 million to customers who bought certain mutual funds from the firm between 1999 and 2004. Company officials did not admit to, or deny, the charges.

Federal regulators said they had found company salespeople misled military personnel about costs and returns in First Command's systematic investment plans. The company has since stopped offering the funds.

The ruling did not involve any of the firm's insurance products, but Oxendine said it did raise concerns among officials in his department that the company may have taken advantage of military personnel in other practices earlier.

"This is a concerted effort to protect our soldiers, and to make sure [First Command] cleans up their act," he said.

The suspension is scheduled to begin Feb. 1, and the company will be put on probation by the state for one year after that. First Command officials said they will appeal the decision.

"We are unaware that there has been any client or regulatory complaints regarding our insurance sales in the state of Georgia," company spokesman Paul Cozy said in a statement. "No negative assertions were made by [federal regulators] regarding our insurance business."

"We applaud the efforts of any regulatory body to protect the interests of our servicemen and women. We look forward to discussing this matter with Georgia independent of insurance and intend to cooperate with the Georgia department of insurance while resolving this matter."

According to SEC estimates, about 40 percent of the current active duty general officers, about one-third of the commissioned officers, and about 16 percent of noncommissioned officers are customers of First Command. The firm's client total is just under 300,000, and the majority of its sales agents are retired military officers.

Last week, Georgia insurance officials announced that American-Amicable Life Insurance will pay about \$1.3 million to more than 900 Georgia servicemembers who were sold policies while in training, which is prohibited under Department of Defense policies and Georgia insurance sales regulations.

E-mail Leo Shane at: [shane@stripes.osd.mil](mailto:shane@stripes.osd.mil)

## Jones: Romania, Bulgaria base agreements are near

From Stripes and wire reports

The U.S. military is about to secure agreements with Bulgaria and Romania that would enable troops to train at sprawling bases there — perhaps by the end of the year, the top U.S. commander in Europe said Friday.

The United States was looking at up to five facilities in each country to train at, spanning Air Force, Navy or Marine units, according to Marine Gen. James L. Jones, commander of both the U.S. European Command and NATO's Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe.

Jones made the comments Fri-

day during a breakfast meeting with reporters in Casteau, Belgium. Earlier this week, he toured bases in Bulgaria while also making stops in Romania and Lithuania.

"This is part and parcel of the transformation of our footprint in Europe, which has been in need of surgery for some time," he said.

Plans for the bases could be drawn up soon, and if approved by the U.S. Congress and governments in both countries, Jones said, training deployments could start quickly.

"There's no reason why we could not start with deployment this year," he said.

Jones' special assistant, Army Col. Catherine Abbott, said U.S. troops would be tenants at the bases and would not own them.

"We will just use them, and when the need arises all the agreements will be in place," she said.

President Bush announced last year that he intended to move some troops from bases in Europe and South Korea to bases in the Balkans. But he also said that smaller bases would be established in Eastern Europe and Africa.

Stars and Stripes reporter Charlie Conn contributed to this report. E-mail Conn at: [conn@mil.stripes.osd.mil](mailto:conn@mil.stripes.osd.mil)

## Proposed death benefits increase

Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., and Defense Department officials have negotiated a proposed increase in military death benefits that would boost total payments to survivors of servicemen killed in Iraq and Afghanistan by \$238,000. The higher payments would be made retroactive to the start of the war in Afghanistan, in the fall of 2001, to help service families who have lost loved ones in combat as well as those who will in the future.

The proposal has two main features. Designated beneficiaries or next of kin of servicemen killed in war would receive an additional payment of \$150,000 under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance, whether or not they had SGLI coverage. Also, the lump-sum military death gratuity, now \$12,420, would be raised to \$100,000 to help pay for deaths resulting from combat.

"The American people want to know that a soldier who gives his

## MILITARY UPDATE

Tom Philpott

life for his country is generously taken care of. It's important as a statement of our support for those who go into harm's way." Sessions told Military Update.

The nation, he added, seeks "a bond" with its warriors and part of that bond are assurances "that their families will be well taken care of if something happens to them. We're not there yet. The bill would make a big step in that direction." A Sessions aide said the bill would raise military death benefits nearer to amounts typically paid to families of law enforcement personnel and firemen killed in the line of duty. Another consideration, he said, was the stark dis-

parity in compensation paid to families of servicemenbers who die fighting terrorists and an average award of \$1.7 million that the government has provided to families who lost loved ones in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11.

Sen. Joe Lieberman, D-Conn., will join Sessions in sponsoring the Honoring Every Requirement of Exemplary Service Act. They will introduce it when the 109th Congress convenes later this month. Sessions said he expects it will attract broad support and predicted swift passage.

Sessions said he negotiated the deal over the last couple of months with David Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness. Sessions said he expects the Bush administration to request the necessary funding — \$460 million the first year — in the fiscal 2006 defense budget that Bush would send to Capitol Hill by early next month.

To comment, write Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Fort Meade, Va. 22021-1111. E-mail milupdate@aol.com or visit [www.militaryupdate.com](http://www.militaryupdate.com)



# IN THE STATES

## FBI computer system found inadequate, old

BY CURT ANDERSON  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A post-Sept. 11 computer system was supposed to solve problems for the FBI, giving agents, analysts and personnel around the world the ability to share information without using paper or time-consuming scanning of documents.

But the \$170 million Virtual Case File project has proved so inadequate and outdated, it may be shelved.

"I am frustrated by the delays," FBI Director Robert Mueller said Thursday in Birmingham, Ala. "I am frustrated that we do not have on every agent's desk the capability of a modern case-management system."

The FBI is hoping to salvage some parts of the project, known as Virtual Case File. But officials acknowledged Thursday that it is possible the entire system, designed by Science Applications International Corp. of San Diego, will have to be built from scratch. The FBI did not get what it envisioned, according to a senior FBI official who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity be-

cause the project is the subject of an internal review by the Justice Department's inspector general. The official said its capabilities were only a fraction of what was sought.

After the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Mueller made improvement of the agency's computer systems a priority. Members of Congress and the independent Sept. 11 commission said the overhaul was critical to enabling the FBI and intelligence agencies such as the CIA to "connect the dots" in preventing attacks.

It is unclear how many more taxpayer dollars will have to be spent. The FBI official said the agency probably will have to ask Congress for additional funds. Some of the necessary software is probably now commercially available, which was not the case when the project began.

Virtual Case File was to be the final piece of the overhaul of antiquated FBI computers, called the Trilogy project. The first two phases of the project — deployment of a high-speed, secure FBI computer network and 30,000 new desktop computers — have been completed.



Ventura County Sheriff's Search and Rescue personnel team with California Department of Corrections prisoners Wednesday to unearth homes and artifacts from Monday's massive mudslide in La Chinita, Calif.

## Calif. officials evacuate 800 homes in Riverside County

BY RYAN PEARSON  
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Rainwater building up behind a dam prompted authorities to order the evacuation of more than 800 homes in Riverside County early Friday.

A police spokesman said he believed there was a small leak in the Prado Dam, near the town of Corona, but the Army Corps of Engineers, which operates and oversees the dam, disputed that.

"We're releasing water," said Fred Otto Egler, spokesman for the Los Angeles district of the Corps of Engineers. "It's being retained behind the dam, and we're making normal releases at this moment."

Officers were evacuating about 330 homes east and 500 other close east of the dam, Police Sgt.

a storm-swollen river that washed out three bridges.

The raging San Gabriel River cut off ground access to the approximately 158 permanent residents of Follows Camp, in the forest about 30 miles northeast of downtown Los Angeles.

"We're completely separated from the rest of the world," said Lt. Tim Dowling of the Follows Camp Volunteer Fire Department. The flooding washed out half of the community's fire equipment, including a fire engine that fell into the river.

Besides flying in food and medical supplies, the rescuers also flew out a heart patient needing special medication and a 10-year-old boy who had been visiting friends when he was trapped in the camp. The series of storms that pummeled the state eased up earlier in the week.

Jerry Rodriguez said. The area is about 50 miles east-southeast of downtown Los Angeles.

Water was increasing behind the dam and "the dam is not able to support it, so for precautionary reasons we're evacuating the homes," he said. "My understanding is there's a leak in the dam."

The National Weather Service issued a flood watch along the Santa Ana River in both Riverside and Orange counties. An evacuation center was set up at Corona High School, and residents could be seen on television reports jamming the few streets out of the evacuated neighborhoods.

To the north, rescuers flew in food and medical supplies Thursday to more than 100 people trapped in a small Angeles National Forest mountain community

### States turn to Europe for cheaper medicines

MONTPELIER, Vt. — States looking to Canada for steep discounts on prescription drug prices are increasingly turning to Europe for deals now that the Canadian government is considering shutting off the southbound flow.

Illinois and three other states already help their residents buy prescriptions from such places as the United Kingdom and Ireland, a process dubbed reimportation because many of the drugs are made in the United States. The new Democratic majorities in the Vermont Legislature now want to join the club.

The move is intended to ensure that customers can get cheaper drugs even if one country decides to stop exports, said Caleb Weaver, project manager of I-SaveRx, the initiative launched by Illinois and now available in Wisconsin, Missouri and Kansas.

From The Associated Press



**BuytheCase.net**

HASSLE - FREE WAREHOUSE SAVINGS

**Military Shipping**

- Wipes
- Breakfast bars
- Snacks & candy
- Ramen noodles
- Canned foods
- Lotions
- Sports drinks
- Dried fruits & nuts
- Moisturizers
- Other beverages
- Health products
- Shampoo
- Baking goods
- Paper goods
- Conditioners

**www.BuytheCase.net** And more... log on today!

## ARE YOU LOOKING FOR NEW WORLDWIDE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES? LOOK AT SPARTAN!

Professional Pilot  
Aviation Mechanic  
Avionics  
Communications  
Quality Control  
Nondestructive Testing

www.spartan.edu  
1-918 / 831-8686  
Email: spartan@spartan.edu

- Degree and Diploma Programs 12 Months to 30 Months
- 50% hands-on training
- Most programs approved for VA Benefits

**SPARTAN**  
COLLEGE OF AERONAUTICS  
AND TECHNOLOGY  
Tulsa, OK • Licensed by OBPVS

## Nervous Nevada residents wait for waters to recede

The Associated Press

OVERTON, Nev. — Cynthia Nelson, schoolteacher and mom, nervously waited early Thursday for word she could return home after fleeing in the dead of night as the Muddy River raged out of control.

The wife of the volunteer fire chief in this small farming and ranching community about 50 miles northeast of Las Vegas heard that her home had fared better than most. Still, Nelson was worried.

"Until you can see it yourself, you don't know," said Nelson, 44. For two days the residents of Overton had been preparing for

the worst, filling sandbags and trying to shore up drainage areas as the Muddy River surged with excessive run-off from recent Western storms and flooded dozens of area homes.

At the height of the roaring river waters, county officials said some 250 homes were evacuated in Overton and the nearby community of Logandale, Moapa and Glendale. Authorities were unsure how many were flooded and said it was too early for damage estimates. None of the homes in the area was thought to have been destroyed, and there were no injuries.

# Texas lawyer sues student spammer

Attorney files suit against one of world's largest unsolicited e-mail proprietors

BY BRANDI GRISSOM

The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — The state attorney general filed a lawsuit against a 22-year-old college student and his business partner, accusing them of illegally sending hundreds of thousands of unsolicited, misleading e-mails.

Ryan Pitlyak, a student at the University of Texas at Austin, heads the fourth-largest spamming operation in the world, Attorney General Gregg Abbott said.

The lawsuit filed Thursday alleges that Pitlyak and Mark Trotter, his 40-year-old business partner from Encinitas, California,

have been sending the e-mails since at least Sept. 1, 2003.

"We want to make clear that these defendants were using today and any other illegal spamming in the state of Texas can't hide behind a computer screen any longer," Abbott said in filing the state's first e-mail spamming lawsuit.

Lin Hughes, attorney for Pitlyak and Trotter, said her clients took great pains to make sure the e-mails were legal.

The lawsuit seeks millions of dollars for violations of the federal Controlling Assault of Non-Solicited Pornography and Marketing Act of 2003, known as the CAN-SPAM Act. The act made il-

legal sending unsolicited e-mails that could mislead recipients.

The lawsuit also alleges violations of Texas laws prohibiting unsolicited e-mail and deceptive trade practices. It asks a judge to stop LeadPlex Inc., LeadPlex LLC and PayPerAction LLC from sending e-mails.

Pitlyak and Trotter began PayPerAction in 2002 and have operated the business under at least 250 different names, Abbott said.

According to the lawsuit, the e-mails contained official-looking subject lines such as "Re: your past due bills" and "Urgent: Household Loan Memorandum: Please Read." When recipients clicked on links in the e-mails,

they were asked to provide personal information that Pitlyak and Trotter sold to other companies for as much as \$28 per reference, the lawsuit alleges.

Pitlyak and Trotter sold their interests in the LeadPlex and PayPerAction to Hong Kong-based Eastmark Technology Limited, which is also named in the lawsuit, in March, their attorney said. Hughes said Pitlyak and Trotter still act as consultants to Eastmark.

Hughes said her clients did not violate the CAN-SPAM Act. She said each e-mail contains a disclaimer indicating the purpose is to gather information and a link allowing recipients to unsubscribe to the e-mails, as required by the act.

## God and government

WASHINGTON — An atheist who tried to remove "under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance says a federal judge has authority to stop the invocation prayer at President Bush's inauguration.

Michael J. Loewer told U.S. District Judge John Bates that plans to have a minister invoke Jesus in the Jan. 20 ceremony violate the Constitution by forcing him to accept unwanted religious beliefs.

Bates was expected to issue a ruling in the case on Friday.

## Boeing groups

CHICAGO — Boeing Co. will end production of the 717 jet, its smallest passenger plane, next year, and plans to charge \$615 million against earnings before taxes related to that and the loss of a \$23 billion bid to supply refueling tankers to the U.S. Air Force.

The big Chicago-based airplane manufacturer said Friday the charge will leave it out 48 cents a share for the fourth-quarter and full-year 2004 results, scheduled to be released on Feb. 2, 2005.

The company will take a charge amounting to about \$340 million, or 27 cents per share, before taxes due to the end of the production run of the 717 sometime in 2006.

## Possible grant raise

WASHINGTON — To ease tuition sticker-shock, President Bush wants to raise the maximum Pell Grant award by \$500 a year over the next five years and fix a persistent shortfall in the nation's chief college aid program.

The president said the maximum grant at \$4,550 by 2010, up 12 percent from the \$4,050 offered today.

The White House declined to say whether the president wants to increase the grants received by more than 5 million low-income students, but congressional and education officials familiar with the details of his proposal said Bush will call for raising the Pell Grant award \$100 a year for five years.

## Defending PR choice

WASHINGTON — Investigations by the Education Department and Congress are forcing the Bush administration to defend its use of a public relations company to promote the president's schools agenda.

The department has committed at least \$1.3 million to the company, including \$340,000 that went to a business run by conservative commentator and columnist Armstrong Williams. He produced ads with Education Secretary Rod Paige that promoted the No Child Left Behind Act.

Williams was also asked to provide media time to Paige and to persuade other blacks in media to talk about the law, records show.

Williams said Paige says the arrangement was legal, some lawmakers and media critics contend it amounted to propaganda.

From The Associated Press

# Bush has doubts about charged phrases

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush says he now sees that tough talk can have an "unintended consequence."

During a round-table interview with reporters from the Portland Press Herald and 13 other newspapers, the president, who not long ago declined to identify any mistakes he'd made during his first term, expressed misgivings for two of his most famous expressions: "Bring 'em on," in reference to Iraqis attacking U.S. troops, and how to get Osama bin Laden "dead or alive."

"Sometimes, words have consequences you

don't intend them to mean," Bush said Thursday. "Bring 'em on" is the classic example, when I was really trying to rally the troops and make it clear to them that I fully understood, you know, what a great job they were doing. And those words had an unintended consequence. It kind of, some interpreted it to be defiance in the face of danger. That certainly wasn't the case."

On other points, Bush said:

■ He wants Congress to approve major changes in the Social Security program before the end of May. Many Democrats and some Republicans in Congress oppose Bush's proposal, which may entail steep reductions in future benefits.

■ Baseball's new policy for steroids and other drugs is "a very strict policy and I want to congratulate both parties."

■ Four years as president have changed him. "They say my hair is grayer."

On July 2, 2003, two months after he had declared an end to major combat in Iraq, Bush promised U.S. forces would stay until the creation of a free government there. To those who would attack U.S. forces in an attempt to deter that mission, Bush said, "My answer is, Bring 'em on."

In the week after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, Bush was asked if he wanted bin Laden, the terrorist leader blamed for the attacks, dead.

"I want justice," Bush said. "And there's an old poster out West. I recall, that said, 'Wanted, Dead or Alive.'"

Recalling that remark, Bush told the reporters: "I can remember getting back to the White House, and Laura said, 'Why did you do that for?' I said, 'Well, it was just an expression that came out. I didn't rehearse it.'"

"I don't know if you'd call it a regret, but it certainly is a lesson that a president must be mindful of, that the words that you sometimes say... I speak plainly sometimes, but you've got to be mindful of the consequences of the words."

# 'Theory' textbook disclaimer creates controversy

Judge orders removal of evolution warning label issued by Georgia school board

BY DOUG GROSS

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Since 2002, Dr. Kenneth Miller has been upset that biology textbooks he has written are slapped with a warning sticker by the time they appear in suburban Atlanta schools.

Evolution, the stickers say, is "a theory, not a fact."

"What it tells students is that we're certain of everything else in this book except evolution," said Miller, a professor of biology at Brown University, who with Joseph S. Levine has authored three texts for high schoolers.

On Thursday, Miller — along with fellow teachers and scientists — cheered a federal judge's ruling that ordered the Cobb County school board to immediately remove the stickers and never again hand them out in any form.

"Obviously, this is quite a victory for good science education," said Benjamin Z. Freed, an anthropology professor at Atlanta's Emory University and chairman

This textbook contains material on evolution. Evolution is a theory, not a fact, regarding the origin of living things. This material should be approached with an open mind, studied carefully, and critically considered.

Approved by  
Cobb County Board of Education  
Thursday, March 28, 2002

**A federal judge in Atlanta ordered a suburban Atlanta school system Thursday to remove stickers, which refer to evolution as "a theory, not a fact," from its high school biology textbooks, saying the disclaimers were an unconstitutional endorsement of religion.**

of Georgia Citizens for Integrity in Science Education.

But some parents and religious conservatives decried the ruling as another in a string of what opponents call activist judges overruling the wishes of elected officials — often on matters of religion.

The school district just north of

Atlanta approved the stickers after more than 2,000 parents complained the textbooks presented evolution as fact, without mentioning rival ideas about the beginnings of life.

During four days of testimony in federal court last November, the school system defended the warning stickers as a show of tol-

erance, not religious activism as some parents claimed. Its attorneys argued the school board had made no effort to address questions that inevitably arise during the teaching of evolution.

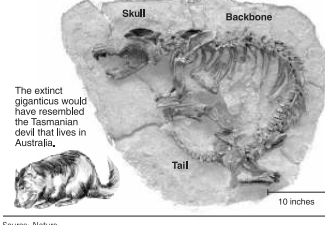
The stickers read, "This textbook contains material on evolution. Evolution is a theory, not a fact, regarding the origin of living things. This material should be approached with an open mind, studied carefully and critically considered."

Scientists, several of whom testified in the case, say the sticker confuses the scientific term "theory" with the word's common usage and inappropriately combines science with personal religious beliefs.

The school board issued a statement saying members are disappointed by the ruling and are meeting with lawyers to decide whether to appeal. The Cobb school system has 30 days to appeal.

## Mammals turn tables on dinosaurs

A 130-million-year-old mammal named *Repenomamus giganticus* found in fossil beds in Yixian, China, was the size of a dog large enough to feast on young dinosaurs. A related species also was found with the remains of a dinosaur in its stomach.



## Preserved remains show mammals fed on small dinosaurs

By JOSH B. VERRENGIA  
The Associated Press

DENVER — Villagers digging in China's rich fossil beds have uncovered preserved remains of a tiny dinosaur in the belly of a mammal, a startling discovery for scientists who have long believed early mammals could not possibly attack and eat a dinosaur.

Scientists say the animal's last meal probably is the first proof that mammals hunted small dinosaurs. The 130-million-year-old, it contradicts conventional evolutionary theory that early mammals were timid, chipmunk-sized creatures that skirted the looming shadow of the giant reptiles.

In this case, the mammal was about the size of a large cat, and the victim was a 5-inch "parrot dinosaur."

A second mammal fossil found at the same site claims the distinction of being the largest early mammal ever found. It's about the size of a modern dog, a breath-taking 20 times larger than most mammals living in the early Cretaceous Period.

Considering the specimens in tandem, scientists suggest the period in which these animals lived may have been much different than is commonly understood as the Age of Dinosaurs — a time dominated by long-necked, 85-ton plant-eaters and the emergence of terrifying hunters with blade-like teeth and sickle claws.

Other scientists, who consider smaller dinosaurs had to look over their shoulders for snarling, meat-eating mammals claiming the same turf.

"This new evidence gives us a drastically new picture," said paleontologist Meng Jin of the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, a co-author of the study in Thursday's issue of the journal *Nature*.

Other scientists, who did not work on the bones described the discoveries as "exhilarating."

"This size range really has surprised everybody," said Zhe-Xi Luo of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh,

who digs in the same area of north China. "It dispels the conventional wisdom."

The fossils were found more than two years ago in Liaoning province. The specimens were taken to a Beijing lab, where they were cleaned and analyzed by Chinese and American scientists.

The dinosaur-eater belongs to a species called *Repenomamus robustus*, known previously from skull fragments.

This squat, toothy specimen is more than 10 inches on its side, it measures a little less than 2 feet long and probably weighed about 15 pounds.

On *R. robustus*' left side and under the ribs in the location of its stomach are the fragmented remains of a very young *Pitacosauros*.

This common, fast-moving plant-eater is known as the "parrot dinosaur" because it had a small head with a curved, horny beak.

Its arms were much shorter than its legs. Adults grew to be 6 feet long, but the one that was devoured was just 5 inches.

The remains still are recognizable, indicating that *R. robustus* ripped its prey like a crocodile, but probably had not developed the ability to chew food like more advanced mammals.

"We can still see articulated limb bones," Meng said. "It must have swallowed food in large hunks without being chewed."

The larger, second fossil also is a *Repenomamus*, but considerably larger. It measures more than 3 feet long and probably weighed more than 30 pounds.

Scientists have named it *R. giganticus*.

This new class of predatory mammals has set off new speculation.

Originally, scientists believed that mammals remained small because large dinosaurs were hunting them. Once dinosaurs were extinct by 65 million years ago did surviving mammals begin to grow larger, they reasoned.

Now, the presence of larger mammals is reversing some of the speculation.

# New global powers, terror threats forecast for 2020

By KATHERINE PFLERGER SHRADER  
The Associated Press

LANGLEY, Virginia — And now, a look into the future: al-Qaida, out; murky and scattered new terror cells, in. Hollywood, out; India's "Bollywood" in. America as sole superpower, out; China and India as world players, in.

At least that's what U.S. intelligence future-gazers predicted Thursday.

"How we mentally map the world of 2020 will change radically," said the National Intelligence Council Chairman Robert Hutchings at the release of his panel's new report, Project 2020. Newly arriving powers have the potential to render obsolete the old categories of East and West, North and South.

The unclassified forecasts offer a range of scenarios about the world 15 years out. Officials caution they are not meant to be predictions certain to come true but rather long-term outlooks designed to stimulate debate at the start of a new presidential term.

The council predicts an emergence of new global players — almost certainly China and India — but whether these new players fit into the world cooperatively or competitively remains an important uncertainty for the United States.

Council Vice Chairman David Gordon said the changes ahead could be "a very bumpy ride." Among them, he said, the integration of 1 billion low-paid workers will cause global shifts in rich and poor countries alike. Changes will be experienced politically, economically and even culturally, as Korean pop singers gain international popularity and India's Bollywood movie industry outshines Hollywood.

"Of course, the United States is in good shape to participate in this world, but it will be a world that will be much more competitive for us," Gordon said.

Hutchings said this new order will raise the stakes for Arab countries, which may join in globalization trends or experience further alienation and humiliation. Terror threats, too, will change.

While radical extremism will continue to grow, the report says al-Qaida is expected to be superseded by similarly inspired, decentralized groups. Hutchings said he expects the innovation in terror attacks to come from new elements of surprise, rather than unconventional weapons.

"Our greatest concern is that terrorists might ac-

quire biological agents or, less likely, a nuclear device, either of which could cause mass casualties," the report said.

The council treats carefully on the success of democratization — an issue Bush has made the cornerstone of its foreign policy. It predicts dramatic progress in key Middle East countries, including Iraq and Afghanistan, which may be an example for Muslim and Arab states still ruled by repressive regimes. However, Russian and Central Asian countries could slip backward, according to the report.

The National Intelligence Council reports directly to CIA Director Porter Goss but remains separate from the agency. It is responsible for preparing National Intelligence Estimates for policy-makers. Although its products are generally highly classified, significant details have emerged on its overblown estimate of Iraq's weapons capability.

A team of analysts, consulting with over 1,000 international experts, assembled Project 2020, which follows projects 2010 and 2015. The council also offers four fictional scenarios to illustrate points.

■ In a letter, the head of The World Economic Forum explains to a former Federal Reserve chairman how China and India are reshaping globalization trends. A sign of shifting power centers, the once Western-dominated club, which meets annually in Davos, Switzerland, has ceded to demands that the meeting be held in Asia every other year.

■ In a private diary entry, the U.S. secretary-general evokes of how U.S. dominance has survived radical global change and remains "the bedrock of the world order." But the scenario suggests that international organizations largely are not sharing the burden. "I get the feeling that a lot of Americans are getting tired of worrying about the world," he wrote.

■ The grandson of Osama bin Laden writes a letter to another relative about his frustrations with an Islamic leader who has taken over an unnamed Middle Eastern country. While the core of al-Qaida is out of business, its remnants are tapping confusion and turmoil in the Middle East, cutting deals with local warlords who are leaving al-Qaida free to operate as it sees fit. "I'm hopeful," the grandson writes.

■ In a series of text messages, illegal arms dealers describe how they will use the new Osama bin Laden, with heightened intrusiveness and monitoring by countries spooked by terror attacks.

## Haircut, shoeshine evoke bygone era

By DAN WRIGHT  
Daily News Record



Jerry Hall, who opened a shoeshine business in Lou's Barber Shop in downtown Harrisonburg, Va., polishes the shoe of a customer getting a haircut Tuesday.

HARRISONBURG, Va. — In a scene reminiscent of another age, Jerry Hall was in the chair at Lou's Barber Shop getting a haircut and a shoeshine.

While Lou Bonadonna cut the hair, Jerry Hall cleaned, polished and buffed the shoes.

"This hasn't been done in Harrisonburg in at least 20 years," Bonadonna said.

Bonadonna said the shoeshine-haircut combination.

Hall, a retired Capitol poultry salesman, opened the Shoeshine stand last week in a corner room of Bonadonna's shop on West Water Street.

Hall is fascinated with the shoeshine industry, an interest that stems from his travels as a salesman when he visited airports and hotel lobbies with shoeshine stands. "I'm a former Navy man. That's where I learned to shine shoes," Hall said. "It's not an option in the Navy."

Also, his parents always told him that you're not really dressed if your shoes don't shine. The lifelong resident of Harrisonburg re-

members three shoeshine stands in the downtown area.

Bonadonna liked the idea of a combination barber shop and shoeshine stand. "I've worked in shops like that before," he said. "It brings back the old times."

With 45 years experience cutting hair and 16 years in his shop downtown, Bonadonna recalls an era when men regularly took time to get a haircut, shave and shoeshine.

"It was a time when men took great pride in their personal looks," Bonadonna said. "They didn't wear sneakers. Men wore clothes that matched their clothing."

The 62-year-old Hall joins 3,580 Americans employed in the shoe repair and shoeshine industries, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Their average annual salary is \$20,310.

Hall tapped the bottom of Lee's shoe to indicate the shine was complete, a few minutes after Bonadonna had put the finishing touches to the haircut.

"You're looking good," said the 56-year-old Lee.

His hair looked good, too.

## STARS AND STRIPES LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THOMAS E. KELSCH, Publisher  
 THOMAS BIERMEIER, General Manager, Europe  
 LT. COL. CYRIL J. SOCHKA, Commander

## News and Editorial

DAVID MAZZARELLA, Editorial Director  
 BOB CLAMBERG, Senior Managing Editor  
 ROBB GRINGSTADT, Associate Editor  
 JIM ANDERSON, Senior Bureau Chief  
 SCOTT BURGESS, Middle East Bureau Chief  
 JOE GROSZMIL, Electronic Editor  
 ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITORS:  
 Sharon Olson, Features Peter Polthron, Photo/Graphics  
 Brian Bowers, News Sean Moore, Sports

## Addresses

U.S. MAIL: Unit 29480, APO 96211  
 INTERNATIONAL MAIL: Postfach 1330, 64345 Griesheim, Germany  
 FAX: USN 349-8416; cv (+49) (0) 6155/601416  
 E-MAIL: letters@mail.strips.es.com  
 Letters: letters@mail.strips.es.com  
 CENTRAL OFFICE: 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington DC 20045-1301, Phone USN 349-763-0900 or cv (+1) (202) 761-0900; fax USN 349-763-0901; e-mail: letters@mail.strips.es.com  
 EDITORIAL DIRECTOR: David Mazzarella, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC 20045-1301, Phone USN 312-763-0945 or cv (+1) (202) 761-0945  
 E-MAIL: mazzarella@mail.strips.es.com  
 OMBUDSMAN: Jim Anderson, 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC 20045-1301, Phone civilian (+1) (404) 364-0632; fax (+1) (404) 364-0636; or e-mail: ombudsman@mail.strips.es.com

## How to call us

Editor: USN 349-8237; cv (+49) (0) 6155/601237  
 Editor: USN 349-8400; cv (+49) (0) 6155/601400  
 Sports: USN 349-8235; cv (+49) (0) 6155/601225  
 Circulation: USN 349-8235; cv (+49) (0) 6155/601437  
 Advertising: USN 349-8333; cv (+49) (0) 6155/601343

## News Bureaus

GERMANY (country code +49)  
 Bamberg: Rick Steinhilber, 2700, USN 349-7355, APN 25341, APO 96139-7355; tel: USN 469-7567 or cv (+91) 96139886; fax USN 469-7567; e-mail: rick.steinhilber@mail.strips.es.com  
 Bamberg: Terry Boyd, 22228 ESR, APO AE 09034, tel: USN 349-8400; cv (+49) (0) 6155/601406; e-mail: terry.boyd@mail.strips.es.com  
 Bayreuth: Douglas Hargrave, 29480, APO AE 09211, tel: USN 349-8406 or cv (+91) 6155/601406; e-mail: douglas.hargrave@mail.strips.es.com  
 Berlin: Ward Sandersen, USN 349-8400; cv (+49) (0) 6155/601326; e-mail: ward.sandersen@mail.strips.es.com  
 Bonn: USN 349-8400; cv (+49) (0) 6155/601400; e-mail: jim.anderson@mail.strips.es.com  
 Heidelberg: Jameson Joe, R. Anderson, Room 117, Ronsamer, 104, 69119-104, Germany, tel: USN 349-8400; cv (+49) (0) 6221/00554; e-mail: jameson.joe@mail.strips.es.com  
 Karlsruhe: Douglas Hargrave, 29480, APO AE 09211, tel: USN 349-8406 or cv (+91) 6155/601406  
 Karlsruhe/Sapganheim: USN 0202-3717, tel: USN 488-5385 or cv (+49) 6152/0104 or (0) 6152/0140; fax USN 488-5385 or cv (+49) 6152/0104 or (0) 6152/0140  
 Stuttgart: Charles Coen, CHR 425, APO AE 00107-0465, tel: USN 422-2088 or cv (+49) 611-729088; fax USN 422-2088; e-mail: charles.coen@mail.strips.es.com  
 Würzburg: Steve Lewer, DE 959-3508 or cv 0931-467-7001; fax cv (0) 931-700372; e-mail: lewer@mail.strips.es.com  
 ITALY  
 Aviano/Vicenza: Kent Harris, USN 3141 632-7652 or cv (39) 0434-66-7652; fax USN 3141 632-4222 or cv (39) 0434-66-4222; e-mail: harris@mail.strips.es.com  
 Naples: Sandra Jantz and Jason Chubb, PSC 817, Box 56, FPO AE 09621, tel: USN 626-5151 and 626-5158 or cv (+39) (081) 568-5157 and 568-5158; fax USN 626-5151 or cv (+39) (081) 568-5158; e-mail: jantz@mail.strips.es.com and jchubb@mail.strips.es.com

## SPAIN

Rota: Scott Schoonover, PSC 811, Box 1, FPO AE 09465, tel: USN 727-1089 or cv (+39) 0590 82-1089; fax USN 727-1084 or cv (+39) 0590 82-1084  
 e-mail: schoonover@mail.strips.es.com  
 UNITED KINGDOM  
 RAF Mildenhall: Ron Jensen, Building 405 ECSS-UK, RAF Mildenhall, APO AE 09493, tel: USN 238-4888 or cv (+44) (0) 1508-544064; fax cv (+44) (0) 1508-770013  
 e-mail: jensen@mail.strips.es.com

## WASHINGTON DC

Bureau editor: Patrick Drickler, 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington DC 20045-1301, tel: (+1) (202) 761-0859; e-mail: pdrickler@mail.strips.es.com  
 Lisa Burgess, tel: cv (+1) (703) 692-1875; Jon Anderson, tel: cv (+1) (703) 695-054 and Leo Sharpe, 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington DC 20045-1301, tel: cv (+1) (202) 761-1183; anderson@mail.strips.es.com and burges@mail.strips.es.com  
 anderson@mail.strips.es.com and sharpe@mail.strips.es.com

## Printed in the United States of America

Stars and Stripes (USPS 017272), published daily (except Christmas and New Year's) for 50 cents daily and \$5 for the Stars and Stripes centennial edition. 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington DC 20045-1301. Postmaster: Send address changes to European Stars and Stripes, APO 96211.

© European and Pacific Stars and Stripes 2004

This newspaper is published by publication by the Department of Defense for members of the Military Services Overseas. However, the contents of the STARS and STRIPES are unofficial, and are not to be considered the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, including the Department of Defense or the U.S. European Command. As a GPO publication, the STARS and STRIPES are distributed through official channels and use appropriated funds for distribution to remote and isolated locations where newspapers (and personnel) are located. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or the STARS and STRIPES of the products or services advertised. Products or services advertised in this publication should be made available for purchase use, or purchase without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other irrelevant factor of the purchaser, user, or patron.

STARS AND STRIPES WEB SITE: WWW.STRIPES.COM

## Make it all smoke-free

I read "Smoke-free needed" (letter, Jan. 6), about secondhand smoke at the Top Hat Club in Mannheim, Germany. The letter writer also mentioned that smoke travels from the slot room to the dining room of the restaurant, thereby making for a very unpleasant dining experience.

All I can say, is "Bless you, my child." I work in Winger's and the horrendous odor of years of smoking in the slot room is staggering. Employees and customers have to breathe it. The odor is in your clothes, your hair and in the pores of your skin.

In the Jan. 7 Stars and Stripes, the front page introduced the Army's new nonsmoking policy in the various lodging centers. Maybe someone with a lot of scrambled eggs on his hat can explain why there are so many smoking policies for the different services.

I feel I am more versed in what smoking does than the average smoker. I smoked three packs a day for 28 years.

I woke up one morning, decided that it was, it threw them in the trash and never looked back. That was 14 years ago. Next time you light up, stand in front of a mirror and watch yourself smoke that cigarette. And parents, after going through all you did to have children, I have never understood why you are so willing to put them in so much danger. [U.S. Army Europe commander] Gen. B.B. Bell, it's time to protect not only your troops, but families and Department of Defense workers as well and make all Army facilities in Germany smoke-free. Make a few unannounced visits to post exchanges, commissaries, stores or other facilities, and look at the butts on the ground instead of in one of the provided containers.

Walter J. Irwin  
 Ludwigshafen, Germany

## Post-Christmas message

While cleaning up Christmas decorations, I looked over the "30 holidays" cards that we received from friends and family. Only one card was a traditional card; it was a picture of the baby Christ

## Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

## Send your letters to:

U.S. Mail: Stars and Stripes  
 Unit 29480  
 APO AE 09211  
 International mail: Stars and Stripes  
 Postfach 1330  
 64345 Griesheim  
 Via fax: (Country code +49) (0) 6155/601395;  
 USN 349-8395  
 E-mail: letters@mail.strips.es.com

in a manger. Only five cards used the word "Christmas," the 24 remaining cards were generic "Happy Holiday" cards, or tacky jokes with a holiday theme. I find that disturbing.

Traditions are cultural values they connect each generation with those in the past and those to come. Furthermore, American Christmas traditions have helped to bind our immigrant cultures together. It is hard to celebrate the birth that, tradition says, started Western ideals of peace and love? Is it worthwhile to teach our children the ideals expressed in Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," that love and generosity are more important than wealth?

If peace, love and generosity are worthy concepts, and if Christmas traditions extol peace, love and generosity, then even nonbelievers should uphold Christmas traditions. Those ideas are valuable even if you don't believe in the literal Christ. Even as a myth, the message of Christ has value for all of us. Even as a myth, Christmas traditions could link great-grandparents to your children's children.

For Christians, if you believe in the literal Christ, that his light brightened the world, shouldn't you celebrate his birth by name — Christmas?

Why be ashamed to say "Merry Christmas"? Why be reluctant to send traditional Christmas cards? Who are you afraid of offending? If you have peace, love and generosity in your heart, is it necessary to be blandly politically correct?

Please consider sending a traditional card next Christmas. I will always send traditional cards — even if they offend so scarce that I have to draw them by hand.

Michael J. Leno  
 Würzburg, Germany

## Stripes not right on the right

I read Stars and Stripes nearly every day and, I must say, I am completely disturbed by the lack of respect this publication has for our president or anyone on his staff. Most of the time he is referred to only as "Bush." This is disgraceful and, as a publication that is sometimes the only news of home, lopsided opinions of Democratic oppression are truly becoming dull.

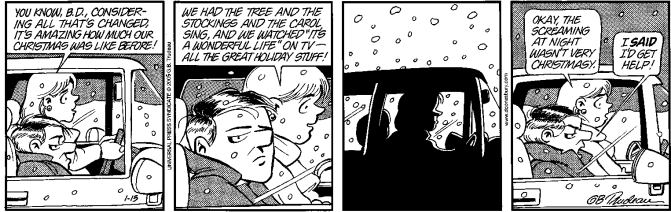
Stripes does not offer a Republican response to most of the unilateral topics discussed. It is nearly as biased as CNN in its unrelenting attacks on all things conservative or Republican. It must truly be a bitter pill to swallow after all the support and press Stripes gave Sen. John Kerry during the election. I can only imagine how long it will be overwhelmed with Stripes' support of Sen. Hillary Clinton, should she run [for president in 2008].

As a loyal reader of Stripes, I find it truly disturbing that only one side of the issues is ever completely discussed. Most Republican responses, if printed at all, are often taken out of context and twisted or contorted and manipulated to sway reader opinion. I must say, Stripes does this well.

I wish there would be more positive stories coming out of Stripes' coverage of the Iraq war. Stripes does a lot to crush troop morale with its constant bombardment of U.S. deaths at the hands of insurgents in Iraq. I cannot even begin to imagine what would happen to U.S. interests worldwide if we don't win this fight.

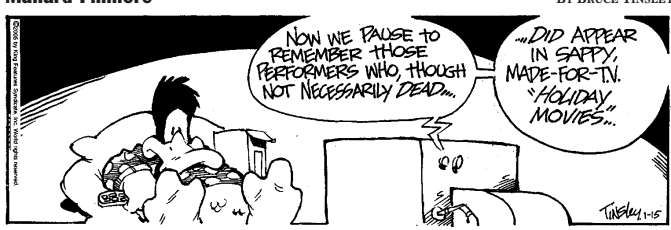
James Laing  
 Camp Red Cloud, South Korea

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



## Mallard Fillmore

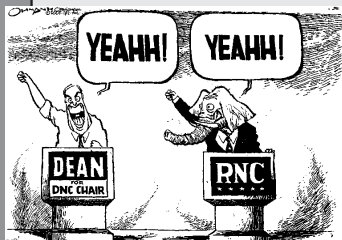
BY BRUCE TINSLEY



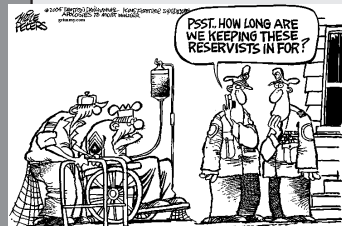


# Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



JACK OHMAN/Tribune Media Services



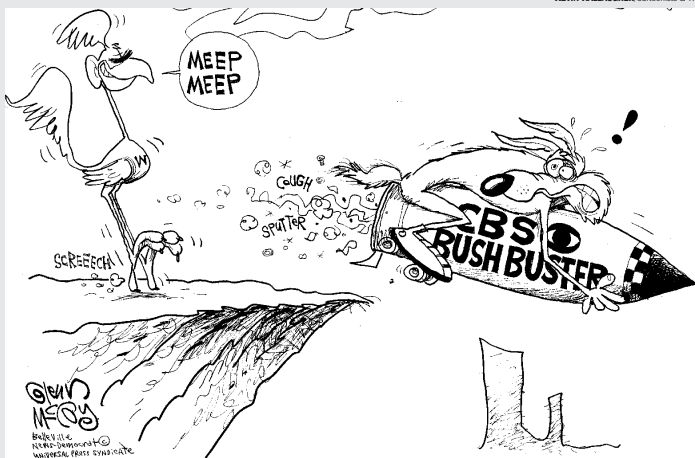
MIKE PETERS/King Features Syndicate



PAT OLIPHANT/Universal Press Syndicate



KEVIN KALLAUGHER/Artists & Writers Syndicate



GLENN MCCOY/Universal Press Syndicate

## IN THE WORLD

# Malaria concerns hit tsunami area

BY EDWARD HARRIS

The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — Masked workers with mosquito-killing spray guns began moving through refugee camps Friday in tsunami-battered Aceh province, trying to prevent an outbreak of malaria.

"Short-term, we're trying to prevent an epidemic," said Richard Allan, director of the Mentor Initiative, a public health group that fights malaria epidemics. "And it may already be too late."

The death toll from the Dec. 26 earthquake-triggered tsunami has topped 157,000. Two-thirds of the deaths occurred in Indonesia's Aceh province.

Allan warns that 100,000 more people could die of malaria around

Aceh if quick action isn't taken. A successful spraying effort would drastically minimize that risk.

The pools of salt water created by the tsunami have been diluted by seasonal rains into a brackish water, creating the perfect breeding ground for mosquitos.

A fumigation operation started Friday with a small team of sprayers planning to cover up to eight refugee camps around the provincial capital of Banda Aceh. The main spraying effort won't begin for at least two days because most of the insecticide has been held up by bureaucratic delays in Jakarta, where three plane loads of insecticide are waiting for clearance to fly to Banda Aceh, he said.

Poor health and tsunami-related stress has weakened the immune systems of the displaced people,



Members of the Indonesian Ministry of Health fumigate a refugee camp Friday in Lhoknga, on the outskirts of Banda Aceh, Indonesia.

leaving them abnormally susceptible to mosquito-borne illness, said Allan.

In Sri Lanka, more than 25,000 people displaced by the Dec. 26 tsunami left relief camps in the past 24 hours to return to rebuild their villages, the United Nations' refugee agency said Friday.

"Some want to return because

their houses were partially damaged and some want to return to where their house was to be sure that they are recognized" as the owner, said Neil Wright, an official with the United Nations' High Commissioner for Refugees.

U.S. helicopters flew into eastern Sri Lanka Friday, ferrying some 30 tons of relief materials, including fresh fruits and vegetables. "We're concentrating on the eastern areas where many people were stranded after their roads and bridges were destroyed," said Sri Lankan Wing Commander Senaka Dharmawardene, who is in charge of coordinating aid in the eastern region. "The Americans" have been very helpful."

The tsunami killed 31,000 people in Sri Lanka and rendered 800,000 people homeless, Wright said more than 425,000 still remain in refugee camps.

Indonesia is sensitive over foreign involvement in the humanitarian effort, especially from Chinese troops, and reiterated Friday that it wants foreign troops out of the country by late March. However, the United States, which has thousands of forces in the region, said it has not been given any such deadline.

## U.N. leader pitches disasters warning system

The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — Tsunamis, earthquakes, hurricanes and volcanoes pose a greater threat to man than war and terrorism, and an early warning system is needed to alert the three billion people who live in high-risk areas, the U.N. humanitarian chief said.

This is an underestimated problem in the world," Jan Egeland said Thursday. "Of course, security and terrorism and war are big problems. Natural disasters are much bigger problems if you talk about the number of people affected."

Egeland said 250 million lives are "devastated every year because of natural disasters."

He was speaking ahead of next week's U.N.-sponsored World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Japan, where more than 4,000 people from 140 countries will discuss a global warning system, which is expected to be up and running this year.

"The next tsunami may come in 100 years. Next year, however, there will be many terrible hurricanes that will affect as many people and ... we do not have good enough early warning systems. Cuba has a great one. Haiti has none. We have to have an international system," he said.

The U.N. conference will open immediately after the commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the earthquake that struck Kobe and the surrounding area on Jan. 17, 1995, killing more than 6,400 people. There will be a special session on lessons learned from the Dec. 26 earthquake off Indonesia that sparked a tsunami that killed more than 150,000 people in 11 countries.

Egeland said it was "mind boggling" that for hours experts knew the tsunami was approaching shorelines but millions of people remained on beaches. "As the first tidal wave receded, thousands of children ran down to collect fish which were on shore ... and they were nearly all of them taken and killed or missing," he said.

## Jakarta bomb threat

JAKARTA, Indonesia — The British and Thai embassies in Indonesia were closed Friday after an anonymous bomb threat.

Police received the threats via mobile phone text message from an unidentified person who might be working with Malaysian terror suspects Azahari bin Husin and Noordin Mohamed Top, said National Police Chief Gen. Da'i Bachtiar.

The threats warned that the embassies would be targeted at 10 p.m. Thursday or 10 a.m. Friday, police said. Both deadlines passed without any explosion.

"It is not impossible that the threats against the embassies were just aimed at diverting our attention ... while their target is another place," Bachtiar said, adding that police were still trying to track down the sender.

Faye Belnis, British Embassy press officer, said officials on Friday also closed a consulate office near the embassy. She said officials haven't decided when the offices would reopen.



A British Embassy official inspects razor wire circling the compound in Jakarta, Indonesia, on Friday. The embassy in the world's most populous Muslim country remained closed Friday morning following an anonymous bomb threat against the diplomatic post and the nearby Thai embassy.

## Poland OKs shooting down hijacked planes

BY VANESSA GERA

The Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — A new Polish law gives authorities the power to order hijacked airliners shot down — a post-Sept. 11 measure that underscores growing terrorism concerns in Europe but drew criticism when enacted in Germany. The law allows the defense minister or air force chief to order the downing of civilian or military aircraft whose hijackers refuse to land.

"This is certainly one of the hardest decisions which would have to be taken if such an event took place," Defense Minister Jerzy Szmajdzinski said.

The law, which took effect Thursday, was introduced to meet "threats in the current world following the Sept. 11 tragedy," said Defense Ministry spokesman Col. Leszek Laszarski. "The fact we have never had such problems does not mean that we should not be prepared."

As a staunch U.S. ally in the war on Iraq and leader of the post-9/11 international security force stationed near Baghdad, Poland has been threatened by extremist Islamic groups with revenge attacks on its soil. Another possible danger could come from Chechen separatists hijacking Russian airliners, many of which pass over Poland and Germany.

Russian law does not say whether authorities there can shoot down hijacked planes. However, a new anti-terrorism bill approved by parliament last month — but criticized as giving excessive power to authorities — gives the go-ahead.

German President Horst Koehler reluctantly signed a measure similar to Poland's into law Wednesday, saying the country's constitution bars the government from killing its citizens even if it saves the lives of others, and urging a high court review.

## Harry mulls Jewish invite

LONDON — Prince Harry, who provoked outrage by wearing a swastika armband to a private party, is considering invitations from Jewish groups to visit the Auschwitz death camp, a royal official said Friday.

The invitations "will be given due consideration, but there are no plans at the moment," said a spokeswoman at the office of Harry's father, Prince Charles.

The spokeswoman stressed that Harry would not attend ceremonies on Jan. 27 commemorating the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau complex, although the Simon Wiesenthal Center had urged him to do so.

Harry apologized for "a poor choice of costume" after royal officials learned that The Sun newspaper was about to print a picture of the prince in a Nazi uniform on its front page Thursday.

The furor rumbled on Friday, with more caustic remarks about Harry's intelligence and sensitivity. But some commentators, pleading that the prince was just a 20-year-old trying to live a normal life, contended that the fuss was overblown.

## Nigerians protest police

LAGOS, Nigeria — An angry mob burned down a police station in southwestern Nigeria after police shot dead a driver at a checkpoint, a police spokesman said Friday.

The driver was killed Thursday on the outskirts of Benin City, a police spokesman Fatai Kiyom.

Nigerian newspapers reported the incident occurred after the driver refused to pay a 40-naira (29-cent) bribe at the checkpoint, in an allegation Kiyom would neither confirm nor deny.

## Bush's EU visit

BRUSSELS, Belgium — European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said Friday the upcoming visit of President Bush to the European Union would signal a "relaunch" of trans-Atlantic ties aiming to resolve trade disputes and disagreements over Iraq.

Barroso said he was "looking forward" to Bush's visit Feb. 22 to the EU head office, after meeting with U.S. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist.

First, making his first visit to EU headquarters, agreed, saying Bush was "momentarily in Washington to renew ties, putting aside vehement disagreements over Bush's decision to oust Saddam Hussein.

## N. Korea nuke talks

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea on Friday told a visiting U.S. congressional delegation that it is ready to return to six-party nuclear talks and would "welcome" the United States as a "friend" if Washington doesn't slander the rule of leader Kim Jong Il. The overture came shortly after the bipartisan congressional delegation concluded talks with senior communist officials in Pyongyang. The delegation called the meeting an "overwhelming success." Seoul said in Seoul that North Korea appeared ready to negotiate within weeks.

# Poll: Euro switch still difficult

## Survey reveals struggles to replace old currencies

By RAF CASERT

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Three years after the introduction of euro cash, almost half the citizens in the 12 nations that use the currency still struggle to replace francs, marks and lire in their hearts and minds, a survey released Thursday showed.

Irish male teenagers are most at home with the new currency, according to the poll commissioned by the European Union's head office, while 30-something women from the Italian countryside still hanker for their lost lire.

The survey found 16 percent of citizens expressed "a lot of difficulty" with the euro and 33 percent said they had "some difficulty" paying with the multinational cash.

Some 52 percent of citizens in the euro-zone nations have "no difficulty at all" in using the new currency, up one percentage point from a similar survey last year, the rounded figures showed.

The Eurobarometer poll highlighted big national differences.

In Ireland, 78 percent had no difficulty, followed by Luxembourg with 71 percent and Greece with 69 percent.

In contrast, citizens of the currency bloc's three largest nations struggled the most. Only 35 percent of Italians were fully at ease with the euro, 42 percent of French and 56 percent of Germans.

Across the bloc, 57 percent of men had no problems using the euro compared to 45 percent of women. The 15-24 age group was most at ease with

### Counterfeit notes rose in 2004

BERLIN — The number of fake euro notes reported to authorities spiked in 2004 to 81,000 from 50,000 the year before, as criminals became more familiar with the shared currency, Germany's central bank said Thursday.

Even greater was the surge in reports of faked coins, which rose to about 51,000 from 16,500 the year before, the Bundesbank said.

In 2002, the year the euro currency was introduced, the bank reported 14,000 forged notes.

Overall, the counterfeit currency accounted for \$8.1 million in 2004.

From The Associated Press

the euro, and those ages 25-39 were less happy, the poll showed.

In their day-to-day shopping, just 25 percent said they still did most of their mental calculations in their defunct national currencies, but for exceptional purchases such as houses or cars, 49 percent still think in guilders, francs, pesetas and the other old monies.

More than 90 percent of those asked said they were now at ease distinguishing the different denominations of euro banknotes, 72 percent with euro coins.

The European Commission expressed surprise that only 38 percent of citizens were aware that they can use bank cards for purchases and cash withdrawals in other euro-zone nations without facing extra fees.

The poll was based on telephone interviews with around 1,000 people in each of the 12 euro-zone nations. It carried an average margin of error of 4.4 percentage points.

reports that the company was paying two members of the German federal parliament and four regional legislators.

### Landlord OKs love

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Noisy lovemaking is no cause for eviction — so long as it's done in the daytime, a Swedish landlord said Thursday.

The Tunabýgen housing company in Borlänge, 137 miles northwest of Stockholm, made the decision after the neighbors of one amorous couple complained about their afternoon delights.

The company, which runs the block of apartments, said lovemaking is part of normal family life and not grounds for eviction.

From The Associated Press

### Big cocaine bust

VIENNA, Austria — Police have seized 300 pounds of cocaine in what the interior minister on Friday described as a big blow to organized crime.

Police detained five members of a multinational drug-dealing gang with international links and seized the drugs — with a street value of about involving U.S. and other foreign authorities, the Austria Press Agency reported.

The drugs were stored in a warehouse in the southern city of Graz and the dealers had planned to distribute the drugs from there, officials said.

### 6.6 tons of hashish

ATHENS, Greece — Police

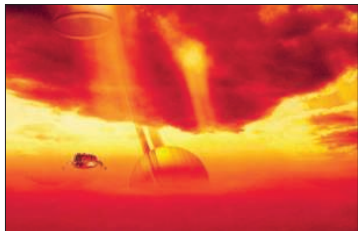
seized 6.6 tons of hashish after raiding a warehouse near the capital's main port of Piraeus, authorities said Friday.

One man was arrested during the raid late Thursday by police and Finance Ministry fraud officers at the warehouse in the Keratsini area.

### WW to end payments

FRANKFURT, Germany — German automaker Volkswagen AG said Thursday it would end its practice of keeping employees on its payroll when they're elected to public office, amid criticism that it had paid six top legislators under the paid.

The practice, which is legal and isn't limited to Volkswagen, has drawn increasing scrutiny in recent weeks, following media



EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY/AP

This artist's rendering shows the Huygens probe with its parachute open as it descends through the clouds of the Saturn moon Titan.

# European probe lands on Titan

## Scientists have waited 7 years for craft to arrive at Saturn's moon

By MELISSA EDDY

The Associated Press

DARMSTADT, Germany — A European space probe plunged into the hazy, mysterious atmosphere of Saturn's moon Titan on Friday, and elated mission controllers said it had opened its parachute to slow its descent as it gathers data.

The Huygens probe had successfully restarted its systems and the mission, which could provide clues to how life arose on Earth, was going well, said Roberto Lo Verda, a spokesman for the European Space Agency.

"It has entered the atmosphere, and entered it correctly," Lo Verda said. "We know the batteries are switched on, the parachute has deployed and it has slowed down sufficiently."

Mission officials — who have waited seven years for Huygens to reach its destination — had tears in their eyes as the first signal was picked up, indicating that the probe had successfully powered up dormant systems and began transmitting to its mother ship, the international Cassini spacecraft.

ESA's science director, David Southwood, said the mission had successfully passed a difficult and critical step. "We didn't promise we could do this. We were pushing the limit just to do this," Southwood said.

Huygens was spun off from Cassini on Christmas Eve to begin its free-fall toward Titan, the first moon other than the Earth's to be explored by spacecraft.

Named after Titan's discoverer, the 17th-century Dutch astronomer Christiaan Huygens, the probe carries instruments to explore what Titan's atmosphere is made of and find out whether it has the cold sox of liquid methane and ethane that have been theorized by scientists.

Its slow parachute descent to the moon's reddish surface was expected to take about 2½ hours, during which it will use a special camera and instruments to collect information on wind speeds and the makeup of Titan's atmosphere. The data will be transmitted back to Cassini, which will relay it to NASA's Deep Space Network in California and on to ESA controllers in Darmstadt, Germany.

# Zeppelin makes first flight

The Associated Press

TOKYO — An enormous white zeppelin described as the world's largest successfully completed its maiden flight Friday in Japan.

The German-made 247-foot airship wafted into blue skies above the western port city of Kobe on Friday morning for half an hour before embarking on a five-hour flight to Nagoya in central Japan, said Yoshihiro Sato, an employee of the zeppelin's owner, Nippon Airship Corporation.

It was shipped by sea from its maker, Zeppelin Luftschifftechnik, in Friedrichshafen, Germany, in July and arrived in Kobe

last week, echoing a flight 75 years ago of the LZ 127 Graf Zeppelin from Friedrichshafen to Tokyo.

The ship is destined for sightseeing and advertising flights in Japan and a starring role at the 2005 world's fair in Aichi prefecture.

Named Zeppelin NT for "New Technology," the craft is filled with helium rather than the intensely flammable hydrogen that fueled airships in the era of the Hindenburg, which caught fire on landing at Lakehurst, New Jersey in 1937 — killing 35 of the 96 people on board, virtually ending the use of the lighter-than-air dirigibles as passenger vehicles.



Rhein BMW presents  
**Valentine's Day Greetings**  
Brought to you by Stars and Stripes

A great way to show you care. Surprise them with a Valentine's Day Greeting!

Messages in the Mid-East edition begin at no charge!  
Messages in the European edition start at \$29

\*Five lucky winners, chosen at random will receive an official BMW-Williams Formula One Team Jacket

Visit [www.strips.com](http://www.strips.com). Click on the link for Valentine's Day

Greetings publish in Stars and Stripes on February 14!

Messages for the Mid-East edition will also publish on

[www.strips.com](http://www.strips.com) beginning 11 Feb

Deadline for messages 27 Jan 05, Drawing on 14 Feb 05

\*No purchase necessary to win

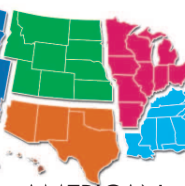
## 18 Afghan holes

**NC** HIGH POINT — One man's efforts to help rebuild Afghanistan involve a few rounds of golf.

Paul McNeill Jr. briefly returned home to High Point to pick up shirts for the new Kabul Golf Club.

The main goal is to show people things are better under a modern democratic life-style," said McNeill, chief of administrative services for the U.N. Assistance Mission in Afghanistan.

During his time in Afghanistan, McNeill helped de-mine and renovate a course built in 1967, which was abandoned when the Soviets invaded the country in 1979.



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Program investigation

**TX** HOUSTON — Accusations that the school district may be overstating the number of meals eaten in a government-subsidized breakfast program in order to boost revenue will be checked out by state investigators.

The Texas Department of Agriculture scheduled the weeklong audit for later this month. The accusations came amid increasing reimbursements to the Houston Independent School District from the federal subsidized meals program. Payments have grown by 50 percent to \$69 million since 2000.

The district and Aramark Corp., the private company that has managed its cafeterias since 1997, have repeatedly denied wrongdoing.

### Slasher wounds two

**NY** NEW YORK — A man with a box cutter slashed a teenage girl on the wrist and then minutes later sliced a Sunday school teacher across her face while she walked to church, police said.

The 65-year-old teacher was walking in front of a grocery store around 12:45 p.m. Sunday when she was attacked by the man, who was armed with a box cutter or similar instrument, police said. The man slashed her face and fled without saying a word.

Minutes earlier and about a block away, a man matching the description of the teacher's attacker had slashed a 17-year-old girl, police said.

### Electrocution death

**OH** CHARDON — A 17-year-old Amish boy was electrocuted trying to remove a power line that got tangled in his horse-drawn buggy's wheels, authorities said.

The boy drove over a power line Tuesday that had sagged down within a foot of the road after separating from a pole, authorities said.

The line got stuck in the wheels and stopped the buggy. The boy got out and grabbed the 4,800-volt line in an attempt to remove it from the wheels, the Geauga County Sheriff's office said. He died at the scene.

The boy's name was not released because his family had not all been notified, officials said.

### Fire bomb influx

**CA** SACRAMENTO — Authorities safely disabled five fire-

bombs found at an office complex under construction Wednesday, the second time in a month explosive devices have been found at a construction site in the area.

FBI agent Keith Slotter said authorities believe eco-terrorists could be responsible, but they have no suspects. No one was injured in either incident.

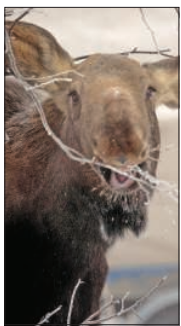
The bombs found at the office complex in Auburn on Wednesday matched three found Dec. 27 at an upscale subdivision under construction in nearby Lincoln. Both towns are northeast of Sacramento.

### Campaigning for House

**NV** CARSON CITY — Nevada Secretary of State Dean Heller said he'll run for the U.S. House seat that fellow Republican Jim Gibbons is expected to vacate to run for governor. Heller's announcement follows comments last week by outgoing Assemblywoman Dawn Gibbons, who said she will seek her husband's seat if he decides to run for governor in 2006.

### Political profanity

**WI** WAUSAU — A man protesting the war in Iraq with a sign that blended President Bush's



### Icy snack

A moose calf chews on a frost-covered willow branch as it wanders around Anchorage, Alaska, neighborhood. Moose are commonly seen walking around Anchorage looking for an easy meal and keeping motorists and pedestrians alert.

name with a profanity was ticketed for using obscene language in public.

The protester said Monday he would fight the citation, calling it a violation of his constitutional right to free speech.

Police Chief William Brandomore said the city attorney's office was researching whether the ticket violated any constitutional rights, even though the city attorney had advised police to issue the original ticket late last week.

"We will do the right thing," Brandomore said.

### Crossing guard layoffs

**RI** PROVIDENCE — A Superior Court judge ruled that Cranston Mayor Stephen Laffey can lay off the city's crossing guards, whose contract entitles them to full health benefits for working about one hour per day. Judge Daniel Procaccini said the city's ailing financial situation warranted the decision to furlough the guards.

### More than she wanted

**TN** BARTLETT — All Milly Beck wanted was a Gap credit card. But after applying last month, she checked her mailbox this week and found her card — plus, 285 more exactly like it.

Beck called Gap's customer service. They were flabbergasted and apologetic.

Pete Tosches, a spokesman with G.E. Consumer Finance, the credit-card provider, said it was a glitch in the computer system and apparently happened only to Beck.

The Gap customer-service representative advised her to shred them all. She's getting a \$100 gift certificate for her trouble.

### Alluring tropical island

**HI** HONOLULU — As temperatures drop across the nation, winter-weary sports fans will be treated to more than 60 hours of television images of swaying palm trees lining fairways, white sand bunkers and football stars sweating in the Hawaii sun.

It's all a strategic effort to lure more visitors to the islands.

The state is spending the bulk of its \$8 million annual sports marketing budget in March and February to host eight televised sporting events taking place on three islands.

"We're trying to portray Hawaii as a place that's much more multi-dimensional than just a sun and surf destination," said Frank Haas, vice president of marketing for the Hawaii Tourism Authority.

### Rising insurance prices

**AZ** PHOENIX — Gov. Janet Napolitano defended rising spending for health insurance for low-income Arizonans. The rising costs result primarily from growth in enrollment, which has climbed to more than 1 million people. The state now spends \$860 million, or 12 percent, of the state general fund on the program. Napolitano said she's more concerned that many Arizonans still lack insurance.



Angelia Smith, left, fights medieval style with Russ Thurston at Crookmore Park in Fort Smith, Ark. The pair are members of the Society for Creative Anachronism.



Johnny McGraw, of South Caddo Towing, uses a shovel and a rowboat to access a car for towing that was driven into a canal of Cross Lake in Shreveport, La. The driver was not injured in the accident.



Mattie Lawton, center, future owner of a Habitat for Humanity home, and family members break ground during a ceremony for the Miami Dade Housing Agency Hope VI project in Miami. Lawton is a former resident of the Scott Carver housing projects, which are being demolished.





## Sailing through winter

Sailboats pass Fanueil Hall, background left, and the Boston waterfront during heavy snow. Weekly winter sailing on Saturdays is a tradition at several sailing clubs on Boston Harbor.



## Seeing red

A fighting bull makes a pass as Enrique Delgado performs during the Santa Maria Bullring's opening of the 2005 bullfighting season in La Gloria, Texas.



## A little lift

Tom Walsh of Keene, N.H., carries a sled containing his 21-month-old daughter, Thera, back to the top of a sledding hill in Keene.



## Day is done, gone the sun

The setting sun highlights the clouds and the tree line in High Falls, N.M.

## State eyes pension fraud

**MA** BOSTON — More than 30 people wrongfully collected a total of about \$1 million in pension benefits, according to a report by the State Retirement Board.

In one case, the family of a former judge continued to collect pension checks for years after his death and owes the state roughly \$100,000, the board said. State Treasurer Timothy Cahill said he will turn over any cases of suspected abuses of the pension system to the attorney general's office.

## Spending spree busted

**OK** DURANT — Meals at the Bryan County Jail aren't what they used to be after authorities discovered an inmate chef with a gourmet palate spent more than twice as much on groceries as was budgeted.

Jail officials are cutting costs in the kitchen after authorities were billed \$13,000 for a month's worth of inmate food.

The monthly grocery bill at the jail is usually about \$5,000.

The menu is back to normal — chicken patties instead of chicken breasts — and food costs are under control, Ridgway said. Staff members are ordering the food and taking inventory.

## Gas leak investigated

**DC** WASHINGTON — Fire officials said they're investigating whether teenagers trying to steal money from clothes dryers disrupted a gas line, leading to a deadly apartment building explosion. A fire and EMS spokesman said they may never know exactly what set off the gas leak.

The resulting explosion killed an 18-month-old girl and severely burned her mother. A firefighter was also hurt.

## Barrier could be trouble

**IL** CHICAGO — Federal and state officials are conducting tests to determine whether a \$9 million electric barrier being built to keep the invasive Asian carp from reaching Lake Michigan could also harm boats in the Chicago Sanitary & Ship Canal.

Officials discussed safety issues after crewmembers spotted an arc flashing between barges that drifted into the barrier.

## Judges allowed leeway

**NH** CONCORD — New Hampshire courts have joined most of the nation's judicial systems that allow judges clear authority to correct legal mistakes made by their colleagues and lawyers.

A year ago, a Bedford man sought a new trial on his six stalking convictions, arguing that his trial judge gave the jury bad instructions. The state Supreme Court refused but because neither the man nor his lawyer had raised the complaint at trial.

Until Nov. 1, court rules required lawyers to "preserve" a complaint at the trial level if they wanted to raise it later on appeal.

The new "plain error rule" allows a judge at any level of court to correct a mistake even if the par-

ties didn't bring it to the judge's attention.

## Early voting catches on

**WV** CHARLESTON — Early voting in West Virginia was a hit in the 2004 general election, with more than 125,000 voters casting ballots before the polls opened on Election Day.

Early voting accounted for 16 percent of the total votes cast, a record 769,645 ballots, the Secretary of State's Office said.

## SOS for oysters

**MD** ANNAPOLIS — The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is reviewing a petition to recognize the Chesapeake Bay's native oysters as "threatened" or "endangered," which likely would halt or limit harvesting of the struggling bivalves.

The petition was filed last week by Dieter Busch, a consultant who formerly headed an arm of the 15-state Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, a regulatory authority.

Busch acknowledged it's not likely that the native oyster, *Crassostrea virginica*, would meet the criteria to become an endangered species — a designation that deems an animal is on the verge of becoming extinct. Such a label would halt all harvesting of the oysters.

## Sales tax pays off

**WI** GREEN BAY — The sales tax to repay loans used to finance the \$295 million renovation of Lambeau Field generated \$20.8 million in its fourth year, the most ever, the stadium district reported.

It's the third straight year the half-percent Brown County tax produced more money than the previous year. Brown County voters narrowly approved the sales tax in 2000.

## Molestation alleged

**RI** PROVIDENCE — A Kent County Hospital anesthesiologist has had his license suspended as authorities investigate whether he molested a patient who was in surgery.

The state Health Department announced yesterday it had suspended Russel Aubin's license. Health director Patricia Nolan called him an immediate danger to the public. He'll have a hearing within 10 days.

The 39-year-old doctor allegedly molested a 21-year-old female patient while she was undergoing knee surgery from a soccer injury.

## Pledge sitter wins fight

**VA** STAFFORD — Students will now be allowed to sit during the Pledge of Allegiance in Spotsylvania County schools.

The School Board's decision to change its policy, given final approval Monday night, was sparked by seventh-grader Gabriel Allen.

The 12-year-old student at Ni River Middle School said he didn't want to stand for the pledge because he disagrees with many U.S. government policies.

"The Bill of Rights clearly states that I have the right to free speech," Gabriel told the board.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

## FACES

# Happy to be 'Arrested'

Comedian David Cross glad he joined cast of characters on TV comedy

BY TERRY MORROW

Scripts Howard

David Cross had a revelation three days into doing the second episode of "Arrested Development."

"I realized this is worth it," he recalls.

Not that he didn't think it going in, but Cross was glad for a little reassurance.

"I was never looking for this," says the standup comedian who plays the sexually ambiguous former therapist Tobias Fünke on the Emmy-winning comedy, now in its second season in the States.

The off-beat series, which follows the eccentric Bluth family in a faux-documentary style, also stars sitcom veterans Jason Bateman ("The Hogan Family," "Silver Spoons") and Jeffrey Tambor ("The Larry Sanders Show").

When he got the pilot-episode script, heavily recommended from friends, he already had his excuses ready on why he would not do a series.

"It wasn't anything against TV, but I didn't want to leave New York and work in Los Angeles. I wasn't interested in doing the ['Arrested'] characters they wanted me to do, but I gravitated to Tobias. He was so needy. I knew I could do a lot with him," Cross says.

Tobias couldn't be any different from him, and finding Cross on prime-time network television is a bit of a stretch, too. Most of his career has been devoted to edgy and politically incorrect comedy from doing standup.

For most of last season, Tobias was seeking a professional identity after his therapy practice ended. To give you an idea of Tobias's sensibilities,

he lost his license after giving CPR to a sunbather who didn't need it. Tobias also unsuccessfully explored work as a thespian and as a member of the Blue Man Group.

Tobias wants desperately to fit in. He's part of the show's dysfunctional Bluth family by marriage — wife Lindsay is played by Portia de Rossi — but his quirky attributes actually make him a perfect fit. In fact, Tobias is the kind of person Cross mocks in his standup act.

"There was no description in the script on how to play him," Cross says. "So I thought of him as kind of an older hippie, New Age, psychoanalyst but also like a Dick Cavett, kind of an Upper East Side, turtle-neck-wearing type."

"I'm nothing like him. I am as far away from that character as you can imagine."

At 17, Cross left his native Atlanta for Boston, where he attended college and got into standup. After moving to Los Angeles, he met Bob Odenkirk while working as a writer for "The Ben Stiller Show." The two collaborated to create the acclaimed sketch comedy series "Mr. Show" for HBO in 1995.

Cross moved back to New York three years ago, but "Arrested" has him doing the bicoastal thing.

He has parlayed his standup popularity into CDs. A DVD titled "Life After America" chronicles his life on the road during a recent tour.

He has done mainstream work, too. He had a role in "Men in Black" and a memorable part as a man pretending to be mentally handicapped and spouting phrases such as "chicken pot pie" on the NBC comedy "Just Shoot Me."



Portia de Rossi, as Lindsay, left, goes on a shopping spree when she lands a role in a commercial that her husband, Tobias (David Cross), auditioned for in an episode of "Arrested Development." Cross said he is nothing like his "Arrested" character, the hapless Tobias Fünke, but he found he could do a lot with the role.

Photos courtesy of Fox



All in the family: The "Arrested Development" cast includes, from left, Tony Hale, David Cross, Will Arnett, Portia de Rossi, Michael Cera, Alla Shawkat, Jason Bateman, Jessica Walter and Jeffrey Tambor.

## Beckham voices fund-raising plea

England captain and Real Madrid star David Beckham has filmed a 30-second public service announcement for UNICEF to help raise funds for tsunami victims.

Beckham, who was appointed Wednesday as a UNICEF goodwill ambassador, filmed the message in Copenhagen, Denmark, during a visit to UNICEF's supply division, which is key to the organization's emergency response division.

UNICEF said Beckham's message would be a valuable fund-raising tool as the organization seeks to raise \$143 million to help the 15 million children affected by the disaster in southern Asia and parts of Africa.

"The global TV appeal he has recorded will be enormously useful," said executive director Carol Bellamy.



Beckham

## Martin visits nation wrecked by tsunami

Pop singer Ricky Martin says he knew he had to come to Thailand to help after watching the devastating scenes of the Asian tsunami.

"After looking at those images on television, it was impossible for me to stay at home with my arms crossed," said Martin, who arrived Wednesday in Bangkok.

The 33-year-old Puerto Rico native talked about the Ricky Martin Foundation's anti-trafficking People for Children project, and the momentum he hopes to bring to the relief efforts in Thailand.

"Music has given me the opportunity to reach masses of people," said Martin, whose hits include "She Bangs," "Shake Your Bon-Bon" and "Livin' La Vida Loca."

He said he felt a need to give back, particularly to children, and to add to the efforts of the Thai government and international organizations.

Martin said he wants to figure out what his foundation can do to help, whether it is building orphanages and schools or producing charity events.



Martin

## Who's the greatest American ever?

Discovery Channel and America Online are joining in a national contest to name the "Greatest American" ever.

Starting Thursday, online voters can throw their support behind the person they believe "most influenced the way they think, work and live," according to a statement from Discovery Channel and AOL.

The top nominees will be listed in March, with Discovery planning a seven-hour, four-night series in the spring about the leading vote-getters and the winner.

Cross "brings a whole new style, a whole new tempo" to the show, says Bateman. "Everybody's method is different, but he is from a whole different world again. His friendship is even more important to me."

"He is an incredibly intelligent, thoughtful, gentle guy. He is one of the most quality people in my life right now."

The first episode will air in May and will profile a selection from the top 100 nominees. The list will be pared down by further online voting, with the No. 1 choice profiled on the final episode in June.

From March through May, Discovery Channel will provide AOL with biographies of leading candidates in news, sports, entertainment and other categories.

## Bush twins' inaugural fashions set

It's their dad's day, but look for President Bush's twin daughters to make a statement of their own at next week's inaugural balls in sexy, stylish Badgley Mischka gowns.

Jenna Bush plans to wear an emerald silk crepe column gown with metallic green banding and jeweled insets at the hip. "It looks gorgeous on her," said Mark Badgley, who, with partner, James Mischka, designed the dress.

Barbara's dress is a little more dramatic and romantic. Badgley described it as a pale aquamarine silk chiffon gown with a plunging neckline, a ruffle seam skirt and jeweled straps.

"I get the feeling they are interested in fashion. They are always dressed beautifully," Badgley said, noting that they are among the few 23-year-olds who need several gowns in their closets.

"We were honored enough to get a phone call from the White House," he said. "It was like, 'Oh my God, it's the White House on the phone!'"

Stories and photos from wire services











Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



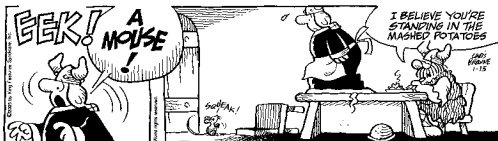
Blondie



Dilbert



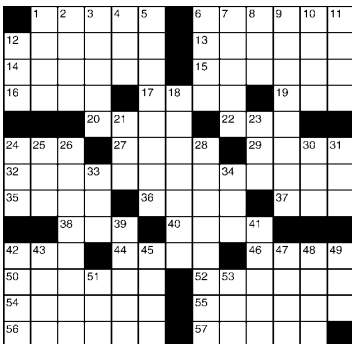
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## Across

- 1 The 2004 World Series, e.g.
- 6 Pure
- 12 The town cutup?
- 13 Jennifer, on "Friends"
- 14 Suitable for farming
- 15 Honor
- 16 Pickable
- 17 Help surreptitiously
- 19 Buxom model's monogram
- 20 Carthaginian queen
- 22 Still
- 24 Boom times
- 27 Ship-related (Abbr.)
- 29 Obsessed seaman
- 32 Advances
- 33 Quarry
- 36 Small combo
- 37 24 hours
- 38 "Amazing Race" episode
- 40 Carolina college
- 42 Nectar collector
- 44 "A Little Bit of This" singer
- 46 Unsure one's reply
- 50 Do re mi, etc.
- 52 Lake near Syracuse
- 54 Pushes rudely
- 55 Long-vowel indicator
- 56 Voiced, in linguistics
- 57 Partners' gear

## Down

- 1 Culinary clothing
- 2 Call it a day on the set
- 3 Underwent recession
- 4 Elusive one
- 5 Adjust to biological change
- 6 Great Lakes indigene
- 7 Precipitous
- 8 Don't just sit there
- 9 Put in a scabbard
- 10 Adolescent
- 11 "Desire Under the"
- 12 Basketball
- 18 Running ballet step
- 21 Officeholders
- 23 Attention
- 24 Fenway arbiter
- 25 Standard
- 26 Closeted secret
- 28 Laborious
- 30 "— was saying, ..."
- 31 Badge earners' org.
- 33 Give the once-over
- 34 Sticky stuff
- 39 Basic assumption
- 41 Family member
- 42 Springsteen nickname
- 43 Toyota subcompact
- 45 Three-piece piece
- 47 Swamp
- 48 Tumults
- 49 TV chef Martin
- 51 Ms. Gardner
- 53 Forty weeks

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



## 1-15

## CRYPTOQUIP

GTWY NZLWZYW JWVZLWN  
EIPP EISKYF DTW GKYDWS,  
K FIWNN TW VZIPE JW

X W X I Y W K Y X R Y I R S A  
Yesterday's Cryptquip: SHE STARTED TO TELL HER FRIEND A TALE ABOUT A NOOSE, BUT THEN LEFT HER HANGING.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: X equals J

# Confession screws up marriage

**Dear Abby:** About a year ago, a dear friend from childhood passed away. He was only 48. My husband, "Brian," and I attended his funeral. The sad event made me realize how short our lives are. On the drive home, Brian started asking me about my past — the people I grew up with, went to school with, etc. I was so caught up in my feelings I thought this was the time to finally answer all of his questions, because I was feeling so grateful for him, our kids and our life.

Well, I told my husband too much. He asked me about my past romantic relationships, and I answered him honestly.

Finally he said, "Since you are being so honest, I'm going to give you one more chance to tell all. If there is anything left to tell, say it now, and we will never have this conversation again."

Well, I had an affair more than 20 years ago — we have been married more than 30 years —

and I confessed. It only happened once. Abby, Brian hit the roof! My life hasn't been the same since. Brian feels he has been disrespected, and he wants to kill the other man. He has become insecure. Our marriage is now terrible.

**Bottom line:** Don't tell your secrets. Keep them buried deep. — **Duped in Delaware** Dear Duped: Although the affair was over many years ago, your husband is reacting the way he is because, for him, hurt and betrayal are fresh. Of course he feels insecure.

Many men feel that a woman who will cheat once won't hesitate to cheat again — and in some cases, that's true.

If you value your marriage, rather than clammring up, you will drag your husband to a marriage counselor as soon as possible. You two have a lot of talking to each other to do.



Dear Abby

**Dear Abby:** We recently went to a birthday party for our 1-year-old granddaughter. The parents had a large gathering with lots of adults and six other small children. It was a success.

The birthday gifts were not opened until all the guests had left. Our daughter-in-law said she wanted to be able to keep track of who each present was from so she could write thank-you notes. However, I feel the guests should have been able to see our granddaughter's expression when she saw her gifts. Please give me your thoughts on this.

— **Miffed in Minnesota** Dear Miffed: At 1 year of age, a child is more interested in the wrapping paper and the box than what came inside it. Since you felt cheated at not being able to see what the other guests brought, perhaps the mother will allow you to help with the thank-you notes.

Letters for this column — with your name and home number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at: <http://www.uxpress.com/dearabby> Universal Press Syndicate

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

**EXIDO**

©2005 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

**CASEE**

**UPVERY**

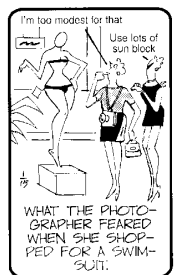
**REVOUD**

**A:**

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

## THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Angrillon



WHAT THE PHOTOGRAPHER FEARED WHEN SHE SHOPPED FOR A SWIMSUIT.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Yesterday's Jumbles: OCCUR BLESS UNLESS VARIED  
 Answer: When the retiree returned to college, he was placed in the — "SENIOR" CLASS

# Husband renews contact with ex

**Dear Annie:** Last year, while recuperating from surgery, my husband, "Ted," had six months of free time, so he started looking up old friends on the Internet. He e-mailed one woman who, unbeknownst to me, was a former girlfriend.

The more her name came up in conversation, the more concerned I became. I finally looked at their correspondence.

The first letters were innocent stories about kids and daily stuff, but she soon moved into remembrances and hints of wanting more. And Ted wasn't stopping her. They both just turned 60.

On the surface, Ted and I were having fun, traveling and enjoying great sex, yet the e-mails became more and more intimate. I noticed her phone number appearing on our cell phone bill. Then I discovered Ted visited her while I was out of town taking care of my sick father. I confronted Ted, and he immediately apologized. Ted sent one last e-mail, telling her I was not

comfortable with their contact. For a while, all was well, but then I got suspicious. I checked his e-mail, and sure enough, he had initiated contact with her again. Now, they e-mail once a week.

How can I save our relationship?

— **Really Sad in California**

**Dear Really Sad:** You need counseling. Tell Ted, "Honey, I've noticed you seem unhappy and distressed, and I'm having some trust issues about your ex-girlfriend. I think we could use some professional help. Please come with me."

**Dear Annie:** I agree with your advice to "Worried about Mom," whose mother has breast cancer, and Dad doesn't want her to leave the house. I am a breast cancer survivor. "Worried" says Mom is fairly active and healthy. She is absolutely correct to think it will depress

her mother to be in "lockdown."

Mom should try to live as normally as possible. The more active she remains throughout her treatments, the better she will feel. Research indicates that it is a plus to continue regular exercise, such as walking.

Mom also should join a breast cancer support group, such as the American Cancer Society's Reach to Recovery ([cancer.org](http://cancer.org)); The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation ([www.komen.org](http://www.komen.org)); the National Toll-Free Breast Cancer Helpline (1-800-1PM-AWARE) (1-800-462-9273); the National Cancer Institute ([cancer.gov](http://cancer.gov)); and the online resources at [www.breastcancer.org](http://www.breastcancer.org).

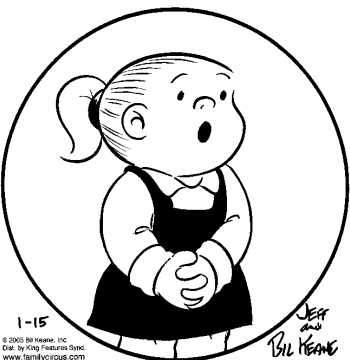
— **A 19-Month Breast Cancer Conqueror**

**Dear Conqueror:** Thank you so much for your words of encouragement and the resources you mention.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to [anniesmailbox@comcast.net](mailto:anniesmailbox@comcast.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 3777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

## Family Circus



"That no-call list won't stop Grandma from calling us, will it?"

**GRAFFITI**

BALANCED DIET  
 WHEN YOUR GROCERIES EQUAL YOUR PAYCHECK

ME 4/15

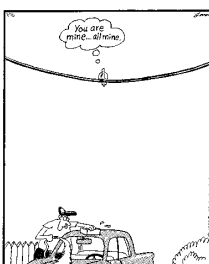
## Domis the Menace



"NO NEED TO READ A BOOK, MOM. I'LL JUST LISTEN MYSELF TO SLEEP TONIGHT."

## © Gary Larson

## The Far Side



## Non Sequitur



OH, NICE GRASS, DEAR. WE COULD HAVE GIVEN YOU THE LOT OF CLOVERLEAF THAT NEEDS WEEDING. BUT NO-ONE'S YOU HAD TO GO OUT AND DISCOVER IT.





# LB looks to weed out steroid abusers

## Selig says plan is step toward zero tolerance

BY RONALD BLUM  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Now comes the real test for baseball: Will any player get suspended this year for using steroids? With some of its biggest stars under suspicion and lawmakers demanding action, Major League Baseball adopted a tougher steroid-testing program that will suspend first-time offenders for 10 days and randomly test players year-round.

The agreement was hailed by baseball management and its union Thursday as a huge step forward. But it was criticized by some as not going far enough because the penalties are less harsh than those in Olympic sports and amphetamines were not banned.

"I've been saying for some time that the goal for this industry is zero tolerance regarding steroids," Commissioner Bud Selig said.

A first positive test would result in a penalty of 10 days, a second positive test in a 30-day ban, a third positive in a 60-day penalty, and a fourth positive test in a one-year ban—all without pay. A player who tests positive a fifth time would be subject to discipline determined by the commissioner.

"It's more for our protection than anything else," Boston pitcher Tim Lincecum said.

Under the previous agreement, a first positive test resulted only in treatment, and a second posi-

tive test was subject to a 15-day suspension. Only with a fifth positive test would a player subject to a one-year ban.

"It appears to be a significant breakthrough," Sen. John McCain said in Washington.

No player was suspended for steroid use in 2004, the first season of testing with penalties.

"We're acting today to help restore the confidence of our fans," Selig said.

Since the old agreement was reached in 2002, baseball has come under increased scrutiny about steroids.

Barry Bonds, Jason Giambi and Gary Sheffield testified before a federal grand jury investigating the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative known as BALCO. President Bush mentioned the steroid problem in last year's State of the Union address.

"I will be surprised if over time this doesn't take care of the problem virtually completely," union head Donald Fehr said, speaking by telephone from Los Angeles.

The old deal wasn't due to expire until December 2006, but the union took the rare step of renegotiating a major section of its labor contract. The new rules run until December 2008.

"I think it's pretty historic that we went into a bargaining agreement and changed something," Minnesota pitcher Kyle Lohse said. "Hopefully, that shows everybody how serious we are about getting steroids out of the game."

McCain, who had threatened baseball with legislation, said that is no longer necessary, though he would have preferred a 10- to 15-game suspension for a first offense and a permanent ban for multiple positive tests.

"I would have liked to see amphetamines added to this list," McCain said.

World Anti-Doping Agency chairman Dick Pound, a member of the International Olympic Committee since 1978, said the new rules didn't go far enough.

"Basically, instead of having to hold up the liquor store five times before you get a one-year suspension, you only have to hold it up four times," he said. "But at least there's some penalty incurred the first time that you're tested, and that's a step forward."

In addition to one mandatory test each season, players will be randomly selected for additional tests, with no limit on the number, and for the first time will be subject to random tests during the offseason. In addition, diuretics and many steroid precursors were added to the banned list.

WADA's Dr. Gary Wadler criticized the failure to address amphetamines, which many in baseball consider to be far greater problem than steroids.

"Amphetamines, better known as 'greenies,' have a long tradition in baseball," Wadler said. "For them not to ban it raises questions."

The issue of amphetamines came up during the talks between

## Baseball pumps up the penalties

Major League Baseball announced a stricter steroid-testing program Thursday to deal with the health and integrity issues. The agreement runs until December 2008.

Penalties for positive tests for steroid use in various sports

	FIRST OFFENSE	SECOND	THIRD	FOURTH	FIFTH
Old	Counseling	15 days	25 days	50 days	1 year
New	10 days	30 days	60 days	1 year	League decision
Other sports					
INFL	15 games	30 games	60 games	1 year	Lifetime
NFL	4 games	6 games	1 year	1 year	1 year
NBA	5 games	10 games	25 games	25 games	25 games
OLY	2 years	Lifetime			

AP

owners and players, said Bob Manfred, management's chief labor negotiator.

"Stimulants are a complicated area," Manfred said. "Are they performance enhancing? How should they be regulated? That's something that we've put to the health policy advisory committee to look at because we weren't prepared to deal with it."

Human growth hormone was added to a longer list of banned substances, but it will be found only when science determines a way to detect it in urine samples. Currently, it can be found only in blood tests, which will not be conducted in baseball.

"We had a problem and we dealt with the problem," Selig said.

"I regarded this as not only a health issue, but certainly you could say it was an integrity issue in this sport."

The agreement was approved by owners Thursday but still must be voted on by players.

First-time offenders are suspended for at least four games in the NFL and for five games in the NBA. WADA's code, which has been adopted by most Olympic sports, says the "norm" is two-year bans for a first positive test and a lifetime ban for a second, unless there are mitigating circumstances.

Associated Press Writers Bob Bauman in Phoenix, Dave Campbell in Minneapolis, Frederic J. Frommer in Washington, Jimmy Gole in Boston and Steve Wilenski in Seattle contributed to this report.

# New drug policy is Bonds' greatest gift to baseball

BY SHAUN POWELL

Newsday

When he retires and gives us a moment to reflect, we will applaud Barry Bonds for his all-time home run record, his sterling MVP collection and his staggering performance in the stretch run of his career, but mostly for his greatest contribution to baseball: the new, pumped-up steroid policy.

Because we know that without Barry, there's no way baseball owners and the players' union, who exist to disagree, would've locked themselves in a room and done something yesterday that was long overdue.

There's no way these people, who look the other way more often than a school crossing guard, would have made an effort to clean up the game. There's no way the rulers of baseball would have delivered a deterrent to drug use without the unintentional cooperation of Barry.

With a big assist from Jason Giambi.

So when you see these former artificially enhanced ballplayers this spring, don't bow. Welcome them with open minds and arms. Without their participation in the BALCO scandal and the universal scream that followed, baseball still would be strung out on dope and suffering from a major integrity problem.

## Commentary

Something or someone had to persuade baseball and the union to get moving on a drug policy with teeth, because baseball was under no financial pressure to clean up its act.

In recent years, the fans were so suckered by the home run that they ignored the hints. They kept rushing to the ballpark in record numbers and made it easy for baseball to sweep aside the drug issue.

There was no incentive for baseball to twist the union's arm and get a drug policy with teeth because the game was prospering, mostly because of the steroid-fueled home runs.

What gave them that urgency? History did.

Baseball cherishes history, and history was prepared to portray the home-run era in a very unflattering light. The dreaded "asterisk" was circling above, like a hungry vulture, ready to swoop and snap away at all the current-day power records, especially those belonging to Bonds.

This potential embarrassment was something the commissioner, the owners and the union didn't want to be linked with for-

ever. They didn't want to have Bonds bearing down on Babe Ruth and Hank Aaron under the dark cloud of drugs and have history wonder whether something was up.

They wanted no more repeats of what happened last fall, when Bonds won the Hank Aaron Award as the NL's most outstanding offensive performer, appeared at a news conference, made a brief statement and then got hustled out of the building before someone could ask the inevitable questions.

That's why you had Commissioner Bud Selig and union chief Donald Fehr together Thursday in a kumbaya show of support regarding the state of baseball and the steps taken to make it believable again.

"My goal for this industry is zero tolerance for steroid use," Selig said.

"I will be surprised if, over time, this doesn't take care of the problem virtually completely," Fehr said.

The new policy isn't as tough as the one adopted by the Olympics.

But for baseball, it represents a major concession and a positive step in an era in which steroids are responsible for creating bogus numbers and fake athletic feats.

Distancing itself from steroids is important for baseball, which places a premium on statistical numbers and tradition and history.

Baseball just gave us a reason to trust it

again. This wasn't the case when the ball first began soaring from ballparks in record numbers and players began to look like cover boys for muscle and fitness magazines.

Even worse, the steroid issue, fair or not, was raised whenever someone's home run numbers suddenly jumped. Everyone was guilty before being proven innocent, and until now, there wasn't a method in place to prove innocence.

The real victims were the players who used hard work, instead of hard drugs, to make themselves better. Until baseball put a solid policy in action, drug suspicion was everyone's unwanted company.

The geniuses who run the union had to get serious about steroids before any progress could be made. Instead of hiding behind the issue of privacy rights, which discouraged a true testing procedure, the union had to place the integrity of the game at the forefront.

That's what happened in the last few months, helped largely by Bonds' role in BALCO, and now baseball has suspensions for first-time offenders and year-round testing.

You might notice a difference in the game this season. The home runs could decrease, but the credibility of baseball can only increase. For this, we must give credit where it's due and give props to the man who made it possible.

Thank you Barry, Barry much.



After compiling a 243-130 record at Idaho, University of New Orleans and Iowa State, Tim Floyd was a combined 90-231 as the coach of the Chicago Bulls and New Orleans Hornets.

# Floyd to return to college game at USC

## Trojans turn to former Iowa St. coach coming off disastrous run in NBA

BY KEN PETERS  
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A flop as an NBA coach, Tim Floyd is returning to the college game.

Floyd was scheduled to be introduced Friday as Southern California's new coach, taking the job Rick Majerus accepted last week after quitting less than a year later.

A former Chicago Bulls and New Orleans Hornets coach, Floyd earlier was 35-25 in two seasons at Idaho; 127-58 in six seasons at the University of New Orleans; and 81-47 in four years at Iowa State.

Floyd was a combined 90-231 with the Bulls and Hornets, and

was fired by New Orleans last May after the team went 41-41 and lost in the first round of the playoffs.

Floyd, 50, still had two years remaining on his contract with the Hornets, an issue that had to be worked out before he took the Trojans' post.

He had the unenviable task of replacing Phil Jackson as the Bulls' coach in the post-Michael Jordan era. Jackson won six NBA titles and 74 percent of his games in nine seasons.

Floyd went 49-190 in Chicago — one of the worst records ever for an NBA coach — before resigning in December 2001.

"Every day has been hell," he said at the time.

Besides Jordan, Floyd also didn't have Scottie Pippen and Dennis Rodman, and he clashed with Charles Oakley and Ron Artest, too.

USC fired Henry Bibby on Dec. 6, just four games into the season. Assistant Jim Saia was promoted to interim head coach for the remainder of the season.

Majerus resigned five days after being hired, claiming his health and fitness weren't up to the demands of the job. He initially planned to do recruiting for USC for the rest of this season, then take over full coaching duties in April.

The Trojans, 2-2 when Bibby was fired, are 5-7 under Saia.

Saia said he heard of the hiring from the school's sports information director before the game.

"He is a great hire," Saia said. "Whatever I can do to help him build the program, I will do."

During his four years at Iowa State, Floyd guided the team to three consecutive 20-win seasons, the first coach in the school's history to do so. The Cyclones went 22-9 in 1996-97 and made it to the round of 16 in the NCAA tournament.

He seemed excited to be moving to Southern California, a hotbed for high school basketball.

"I think this will be the most talented recruiting area I've ever been in," he said in an interview with SL.com. "I think there's a base of kids that grew up wanting to attend USC, and that's always a good situation for a coach to be in."

# Williams, depleted Duke surge past N.C. State

The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Shelden Williams and the short-handed Duke Blue Devils came up big in the second half against struggling North Carolina State.

Dominating inside, the 6-foot-9, 250-pound Williams scored 18 of his 22 points in the final 20 minutes in No. 5 Duke's 86-74 victory Thursday night.

"None of us really worry about depth," said J.J. Redick, who had eight points and seven rebounds for the Blue Devils (12-0, 2-0 Atlantic Coast Conference).

"Certainly we're a little short-handed right now," he said.

"But we've got a lot of tough guys on this team, a lot of guys who make tough plays and want to take tough shots."

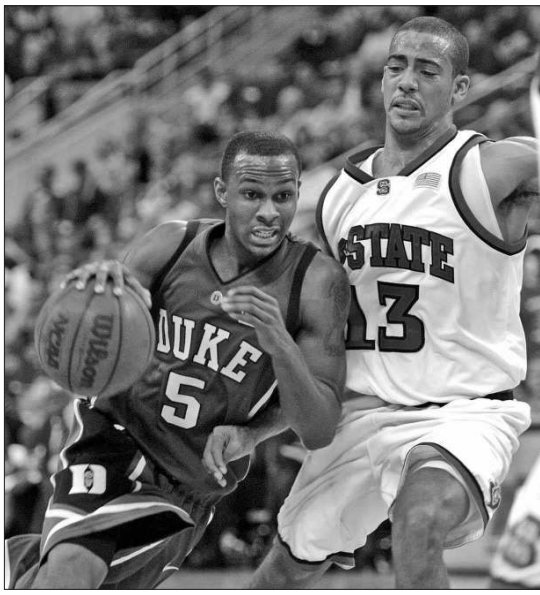
Daniel Ewing added 17 points for Duke, which scored on nine straight possessions midway through the second half to take the lead.

Playing without Shavlik Randolph (mononucleosis) and Reggie Love (broken foot), Duke got strong performances from Lee Melchioni and freshman DeMarcus Nelson. Melchioni had a career-high 16 points, and the 6-3 Nelson scored 15 points despite being matched up against bigger players.

"I really love my team," coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "They're not (Christian) Laettner or (Elton) Brand, but they make plays. I enjoy watching the evolution of this team and I'm just so proud of what they're accomplishing."

Duke appeared to be on its way to a third straight road loss to the Wolfpack (10-5, 0-2), but Williams took charge when the Blue Devils needed him most. After taking only two shots in the first half, he went 7-for-10 from the floor in the second.

"It was one of those things where [teammates] kept going to



Duke's Daniel Ewing drives past North Carolina State's Cameron Bennerman on Thursday at the RBC Center in Raleigh, N.C. Ewing scored 17 points as the No. 5 Blue Devils defeated the Wolfpack 86-74.

me until they found an answer for me," Williams said. "And fortunately, they didn't."

Williams tied it at 48 with an inside basket over Ilian Evtimov, and added a field goal off a feed

from Ewing to make it 50-49 with 13:28 to play. The Blue Devils went on to score on their next seven possessions, getting two more baskets from Williams.

The Wolfpack got no closer

than four points the rest of the way.

Cameron Bennerman led the Wolfpack with 20 points, and Julius Hodge, the reigning ACC player of the year, added 13 on

3-for-10 shooting. N.C. State, ranked No. 12 last month, has lost four straight for the first time since the 1999-00 season.

"I think our team is going through a tough stretch and I think we're all frustrated," Wolfpack coach Herb Sendek said. "We understand the answer is not to panic or flinch. We've got to come closer together and work harder."

**No. 14 Washington 77, Oregon 56:** At Seattle, Tre Simmons and Bobby Jones each scored 15 points, and Nate Robinson and Jamal Williams added 14 apiece for the Huskies.

Simmons also had a career-high 12 rebounds to help Washington (14-2, 4-1 Pac-10) win its 16th straight home game. Bryce Taylor had 16 points for Oregon (10-3, 2-2).

**No. 16 Gonzaga 76, Loyola Marymount 65:** At Spokane, Wash., J.P. Batista scored 17 points in his first start, and Ronny Turiaf added 16 on his 22nd birthday to lead the Bulldogs.

Gonzaga (12-3, 2-1 West Coast Conference) was coming off a loss to Saint Mary's on Saturday that ended its conference winning streak at 17. Matthew Knight had 20 points for Loyola Marymount (9-7, 1-2).

**No. 17 Arizona 77, Southern California 68:** At Tucson, Ariz., Chris Rodgers scored a career-high 22 points, seven during the Wildcats' decisive second-half surge.

Salim Stoudamire added 21 points on 5-for-9 shooting from three-point range for the Wildcats (13-3, 3-1 Pac-10). Nick Young led USC (0-5, 7-9) with 18 points.

**Memphis 78, No. 22 Marquette 68:** At Memphis, Tenn., Rodney Carney scored 29 points, and freshman guard Darius Washington had 20 points and five assists for Memphis (9-7, 2-0 Conference USA).

Dameon Mason led Marquette (13-2, 1-1) with 20 points.



# Moss shows no remorse after being fined \$100,000

By MARK NARDUCCI

The Philadelphia Inquirer

EDEEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — Minnesota Vikings wide receiver Randy Moss was fined \$100,000 by the NFL for unsportsmanlike conduct on Thursday for pretending to moon Green Bay Packers fans this week during Minnesota's NFC wild-card victory. Moss will be in Philadelphia on Sunday for an NFL divisional playoff game against the Eagles.

Moss' one-sentence response to the league-imposed penalty may land him in even more hot water. "It's only 10 grand — what's 10 grand to me?" said Moss, who signed an eight-year, \$75 million contract in 2001. Moss added that next time, he might do something more vulgar with regards to his anatomy.

Moss, 27, commented after walking through a group of reporters standing in zero-degree temperatures outside the team's practice facility. The all-pro receiver issued said nothing while walking toward his car but spoke after continual prodding.

The fine was issued by the NFL's director of game operations, Peter Hadzazy.

Vikings officials were unavailable for comment, either on the fine or Moss' reaction to it. Vikings head coach Mike Tice denied comment during his radio call-in show on Thursday night.

Joe Browne, the NFL's executive vice president-communications, said Greg Aiello, vice president-public relations, were unavailable for comment. Eagles

spokesman Derek Boyko said the team declined comment.

Moss' agent, Dante DiTrapano, told the Associated Press he was preparing to appeal the fine. "If you can't have freedom of expression on the football field, come on," DiTrapano said.

Moss' end-zone celebration, which came in Minnesota's 31-17 victory over the Packers in Green Bay, has created a national furor all week.

The flamboyant receiver, who had two touchdown catches in the game, drew the ire of a Fox Broadcasting crew televising the game,

**"It's only 10 grand  
what's 10  
grand to me?"**

Randy Moss

Vikings wide receiver

Green Bay fans, and football fans around the country when he pretended to moon the crowd after his second TD.

Moss, his back toward the crowd, bent over and pretended to pull his pants down. He also briefly bumped the goalpost with his backside before being joined in celebration by laughing teammates.

Whether Moss encounters further fines for his one-sentence remark, Thursday remains to be seen.

"Your actions were based on poor judgment, did not reflect well on you or the team, and were insulting to many," Hadzazy wrote in a letter to Moss.

## Thompson hired as Packers GM

The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Ted Thompson was hired Friday to take over coach Mike Sherman's general manager duties with the Green Bay Packers.

Thompson leaves his job as Seattle's vice president of football operations.

Packers President Bob Harlan said in a statement that Thompson's hiring "will reduce Mike's workload and enable him to devote more time to coaching."

"In today's salary cap world of professional football where rosters are overhauled every offseason, both the job of a general manager and the job of a coach's general manager are extremely demanding and require an inordinate amount of time and effort," Harlan said.

It's not clear, however, if the team will pursue a contract extension with Sherman, who has a year left on his deal, which was to pay him about \$3 million for his dual roles. His new titles are head coach and executive vice president.

The Packers scheduled a news conference for Friday. Sherman took on the general



Briefs

manager's role in 2001 after Ron Wolf retired. Thompson was the pro personnel director and director of player personnel under Wolf from 1992-99 in Green Bay, working with all three of the Packers' top personnel men: Reggie McKenzie, John Dorsey and John Schneider.

Thompson joined Mike Holmgren in Seattle after the 1999 season and has run the draft and advised him on personnel decisions.

Sherman is 53-27 in the regular season since becoming Packers coach in 2000, and the Packers and Philadelphia Eagles are the only NFL teams to reach the playoffs in each of the past four years. But Sherman is 2-4 in the draft odds, including a first-round loss to the Vikings last weekend.

**NFL: Gillette Stadium field in good shape**

FOXBORO, Mass. — National Football League officials said the field at Gillette Stadium is in good

condition, despite the New England Patriots' decision not to cover it during recent storms.

The NFL sent a representative to check the field on Thursday night, concerned that it was becoming a quagmire in advance of Sunday's playoff game with the Indianapolis Colts.

"Our representative said there was no problem with the field," NFL spokesman Greg Aiello told The Boston Globe. "He reported that the field was dry, the footing is excellent."

The Patriots didn't cover the field Wednesday, but Aiello said that's because the grounds crew was paving it.

The field was covered Thursday night and Aiello said it would be covered on Friday night. The NFL requires the field to be covered on the day and night before a game if there is any possibility of precipitation.

When the Patriots refused to cover the field earlier this week, there was speculation coach Bill Belichick was hoping to muck up conditions to slow down the explosive Colts offense.

But Belichick dismissed those questions Thursday, saying "My job is not to pull weeds."

"They have resulted in widespread criticism and needlessly detracted from Minnesota's dramatic playoff victory. Fans should look to you and your teammates to see how to compete and win in football."

"But when you lose your focus on playing and engage in side-shows as you did on Sunday, you forfeit much of this."

Controversy seemed to follow Moss. On Jan. 2, during Minnesota's 21-18 loss to the Washington Redskins, Moss walked off the field with two seconds to play. As the Vikings attempted an onside kick, Moss casually walked off the field. In the code of NFL honor, that is tantamount to quitting.

In the days leading up to the Green Bay game, teammates told Moss about their displeasure with the incident.

He has been fined by the NFL for incidents ranging from squirting an official with a water bottle, which cost him \$25,000, to \$15,000 for verbally abusing corporate sponsors on an airplane. Moss was fined \$5,000 in September for his role in a scuffle with the Chicago Bears.

Moss, who has been hampered recently by a lingering ankle injury, sat out practice Wednesday but was back on Thursday.

"That's the biggest thing that Randy brings besides the big-play ability."

"That's the biggest thing that Randy brings besides the big-play ability."

## Playoffs: NFL serves up some tasty matchups

PLAYOFFS, FROM BACK PAGE

"I still consider myself to be a young quarterback, believe it or not, even though quarterback years are kind of like dog years," he says. "I'm in my seventh year and I'm known as kind of an old man as far as quarterbacks go in the NFL."

All four quarterfinals are re-matches of regular-season games, and all are at the same venue as the first contests.

**AFC Indianapolis (13-4) at New England (14-2)**

Manning threw 32 of his 49 TD passes indoors — 26 at home in the RCA Dome and six at Detroit's Ford Field. The Patriots in Foxboro on Sunday is likely to be in the 20s.

"People make a big deal of that," he says. "I think it just depends on who plays the best, whether he's at home or away in a dome or in weather or whatnot."

"Whatnot" in this case might be the Patriots' crowd and New England's 19-game winning streak in Foxboro. The Pats also are one of only three teams to finish 14-2 for two straight seasons.

The crowd? Manning calls more plays at the line of scrimmage than any quarterback in the NFL.

"It's always a huge advantage for us playing at home," Brady says. "It's always going to be, it's real tough when it's loud. From an opposing team's view, it's awfully tough when the other crowd is really loud — and our fans are loud."

Previous meeting: Patriots 27-24, Sept. 9.

**New York Jets (11-6) at Pittsburgh (15-1)**

Like the Falcons, the Steelers seem content to be ignored. And Roethlisberger, 13-0 as a starting quarterback in the NFL, seems content to let Manning, Brady, Daunte Culpepper, Donovan McNabb and the other high-profile quarterbacks take the spotlight.

"There's a little bit of pressure out there, obviously, because you lose, you go home," he said after some relaxed horsingplay in the locker room concerns that it was becoming a quagmire in advance of Sunday's playoff game with the Indianapolis Colts.

"Our representative said there was no problem with the field," NFL spokesman Greg Aiello told The Boston Globe. "He reported that the field was dry, the footing is excellent."

The Patriots didn't cover the field Wednesday, but Aiello said that's because the grounds crew was paving it.

The field was covered Thursday night and Aiello said it would be covered on Friday night. The NFL requires the field to be covered on the day and night before a game if there is any possibility of precipitation.

When the Patriots refused to cover the field earlier this week, there was speculation coach Bill Belichick was hoping to muck up conditions to slow down the explosive Colts offense.

But Belichick dismissed those questions Thursday, saying "My job is not to pull weeds."



**In the past three games, St. Louis Rams QB Marc Bulger has completed 68 percent of his passes for 988 yards, six touchdowns and three interceptions.**

question mark, although with Michael Vick's ankle injury and Mora as the coach, they have reversed last season's record. They also had wins over two AFC playoff teams, San Diego and Denver, and Vick on a fast track makes them extremely dangerous from anywhere on the field.

The Rams, of course, love an artificial indoor surface, although they would prefer to be in their own dome.

They also have won three straight games and believe they are returning to the elite status they enjoyed for most of the past five years. Coach Mike Martz won't say if he expects to be better than Kurt Warner was from 1999-01, when he won two MVP awards.

The defense is coming on, helped by the emergence of tackle Jimmy Kennedy, who played little as a first-round draft choice last season, then missed seven games with a broken foot this season.

"Jimmy has just amazed me," Martz says. "What he did quietly while he was away is pretty remarkable."

Previous meeting: Falcons 34-17, Sept. 19.

**Minnesota (9-8) at Philadelphia (13-3)**

The Eagles are also a bit out of the spotlight, in part because they tanked their last two games after clinching home-field advantage, and in part because they were off last week while Moss shared top billing with Manning and the Colts.

Philadelphia also has been downgraded because Terrell Owens is out with a leg injury and went by back under the Eagles make the Super Bowl — and maybe not even then.

But they do have Brian Westbrook, the other playmaker, whose absence from the playoffs last season was probably why they lost their third straight NFC title game.

Moss, whose two touchdown catches in Green Bay were overshadowed by his antics, was limping this week on a sprained ankle when he took the place of the season by hamstring problems. But he will play.

Even Minnesota owner Red McCombs got into the act by demanding that Fox Sports remove play-by-play announcer Joe Buck from the telecast for denouncing Moss' antics.

Previous meeting: Eagles 27-16, Sept. 20.



# Quarterbacks might be key for Steelers, Jets

## Jets looking to rattle rookie Roethlisberger

By ALAN ROBINSON  
The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The New York Jets rattled him into uncharacteristic mistakes and made him look just like a rookie during his most miserable afternoon in the NFL so far.

What they didn't do was beat Ben Roethlisberger.

That may be the biggest challenge confronting the Jets in Saturday's divisional playoff game. Beating the Pittsburgh Steelers means beating Roethlisberger, something no college or pro team has done in 26 games dating to his final season at Miami of Ohio.

With his 13-0 record, Roethlisberger long ago won over a Steelers-mad city with his poise, maturity and can't-beat-me attitude and energized a franchise that is convinced it is ready to win the fifth Super Bowl trophy it has chased for a quarter-century.

"When you win 13 games in a row, each game there's a little more pressure that mounts, and he has handled it with style and grace," said Jets quarterback Chad Pennington, who, like Roethlisberger, is a former Mid-American Conference star. "I don't expect him to be any different each Saturday."

The Jets came the closest to stopping Roethlisberger in the middle, frustrating him repeatedly during a season's-worst performance — 9-for-19 for 144 yards and two interceptions — in Pittsburgh's 17-6 victory Dec. 12.

But the Jets seemed to wear down by the fourth quarter and Roethlisberger hit four of his final five passes for 99 yards,



Quarterback Chad Pennington, left, and the New York Jets face a daunting task in stopping Steelers' rookie Ben Roethlisberger on Saturday. The last time the teams played, Roethlisberger had a season-worst performance, going 9-for-19 with 144 yards and two interceptions. AP photos



though it was running back Jerome Bettis who threw the decisive touchdown pass.

Roethlisberger should get a boost from the return of defensive-stretching wide receiver Plaxico Burress, who sat out the earlier Jets game with a sore hamstring. But, just like last month, the Steelers expect coach Herman Edwards' team to sell out to stop running backs Jerome Bettis and Duane Staley and force Roeth-

lisberger to beat them.

After all, rookie quarterbacks can't win in the postseason, can they? They used five linemen (in run support) and brought the safety up sometimes, and that was the first time I'd seen that one," tackle Marvel Smith said.

The Steelers are seeing a lot of firsts during their franchise-best 14-game winning streak, many from Roethlisberger.

Still, what they're asking Big Ben to do is unrivaled — no NFL team with a record (15-1) as good as Pittsburgh's has entrusted such a task to a rookie quarterback in the postseason.

Only one straight-from-college rookie QB has won his first playoff game since the 1970 merger, Tampa Bay's Shaun King in 1999, though two NFL rookies coming from other pro leagues did it.

"Ben will be fine," coach Bill Cowher said Thursday. "He's had a lot of scrutiny through the course of the season, and we have

played in some big games, and he's really been unflappable when it comes to those type of things. So when Saturday comes around, it's just going to be another football game."

Pennington only wishes it were that simple. He threw three interceptions and looked out of sync throughout the Pittsburgh loss, his second game following a three-week rotation cut injury lay-off. That performance stirred the debate whether he possessed the arm strength and fortitude to take the Jets deep into the playoffs.

Those doubts persisted as the Jets lost three of four, but Pennington bounced back with a strong game (23 of 33, 279 yards, two touchdowns) — and, yes, a strong arm — in last week's 20-17 overtime win in San Diego.

That's why, for all their similarities — equally strong ground games, highly ranked defenses and coaches who once were NFL teammates and assistant coaches

together — the Jets and Steelers realize the better quarterback probably will determine the winner.

The weather should be better than previously forecast, partly cloudy skies with temperatures in the low 20s, so it shouldn't influence the outcome.

"We are excited to get another chance, but we know what our challenge is: We are playing the best team in the AFC," Pennington said. "But it is a challenge I think our team likes."

Just as Roethlisberger is as eager as anyone to see if he's up to the challenge, too.

"You can't be a rookie anymore," he said. "The guys are counting on me too much. You can't make rookie mistakes, though I'll probably make them. You can't afford too many mistakes because if you lose, you go home. It's the playoffs, and you can't afford to lose."

## Jets rule out defensive end Abraham

By PETER BOTTE  
New York Daily News

NEW YORK — John Abraham will miss his second straight playoff game on Saturday, and there is no guarantee the increasingly defensive Pro Bowl defensive end will be able to suit up if the Jets advance to next week's AFC championship game.

Hern Edwards publicly painted a bleak picture concerning Abraham's availability when he said on Thursday that he "doubted" the ailing Abraham would return to the lineup on Saturday against the Steelers. A team source later confirmed that Abraham's status has been ruled out of action for the sixth consecutive game because of his sprained right knee.

"I doubt it. I doubt if he plays," Edwards said at his daily press briefing. "He can't really athletically play his position the way he's capable of playing it. That's not good for the player, and it's not good for the football team."

The Jets never have given a definitive

time frame regarding Abraham's condition, other than to term it a "week-to-week" proposition since he initially sprained his knee Dec. 5 against Houston. Now there's word that he was told it would be a 6-to-10 week injury.

The Jets admittedly did Abraham a disservice when they initially listed him as probable before he sat out last week's wild-card playoff game against San Diego amid poor field conditions at Qualcomm Stadium.

Abraham declined to discuss his injury status on Thursday, and grew defensive when the questioning turned to quotes attributed to him last week suggesting he was torn between returning and injuring himself further since he is slated for a big free-agent payday in the offseason.

"I was very honest, but y'all took it out of context. I didn't say anything about a contract. I don't know where you got that from," said Abraham, who participated in practice for the second straight day. "I said 'my future,' and (the media) took it completely out of context.... I told them I'd be happy if I got franchised here. I never said I wanted a contract."

When one reporter attempted to explain to Abraham that he had been quoted correctly, Abraham shook his head and walked away. Abraham might not have used the word "contract," but reporters who were present said there was no doubt he understood that the line of questioning was aimed at his pending free-agent status.

"It's definitely a tough situation," Abraham said last week. "I want to be here for my team, but I also have to understand. I'm in kind of a Catch-22 situation. I guess you could say. Either way, whatever I do is pretty much going to factor in on my life, whether we move on or whether we lose. I have to sit back, weigh my options and see what's important."

"I have to think about the long term right now. I don't want to go there and seriously injure myself more than I already have."

A three-time Pro Bowl selection and one of the NFL's top pass-rushing linemen, the 26-year-old Abraham was leading the Jets with 9½ sacks when he was injured last month.

## N.Y. Jets (11-6) at Pittsburgh (15-1)

**OPENING LINE** — Steelers by 8½.  
**RECORD VS. SPREAD** — Jets 8-7, Steelers 12-4.  
**SERIES RECORD** — Steelers lead 15-2.  
**LAST MEETING** — Steelers beat Jets 17-6 on Dec. 12, 2004, at Pittsburgh.

**LAST POSTSEASON MEETING** — First postseason meeting.

**JETS WEEK** — Jets beat Chargers 20-17 in OT in wild-card game. Steelers had bye, beat Bills 24-24.

**JETS OFFENSE** — OVERALL (17), RUSH (1), PASS (22).

**JETS DEFENSE** — OVERALL (17), RUSH (5), PASS (147).

**STEELERS OFFENSE** — OVERALL (10), RUSH (20), PASS (28).

**STEELERS DEFENSE** — OVERALL (11), RUSH (1), PASS (44).

**KEY MATCHUP** — Ed McClellan (Steelers) vs. Joey Porter and James Farrior. In December, Steelers held McLeellan to 72 yards on 24 carries, while Porter and Farrior averaged 4.6 yards per carry in regular season. He led NFL with 31 sacks while Porter and Farrior combined for 28 sacks. Porter and Farrior combined for 28 sacks while Porter and Farrior combined for 28 sacks.

**STEELERS STATS AND NOTES** — Game features AP Offensive and Defensive Records of the Year: Steelers QB Ben Roethlisberger and Jets LB Jonathan Vilma. Jets starting QB Chad Pennington missed practice Wednesday with a stomach ache while backup Quincy Carter went home to Georgia to be with ailing mother, Coach Herman Edwards said. Pennington will be ready by Saturday. Against common opponents Steelers are 8-1, Jets are 5-4. Jets are 0-6 all-time in Pittsburgh. Steelers were undefeated at home this season, nearly twice their total passes (250). Jets were third with 527 carries. Jets were second in NFL in rushing (1,883) and third in passing (1,883). Steelers were plus-11. Edwards (60, 197-45) and Steelers coach Bill Cowher (45, 193-46) are 11th and 12th in NFL coaching wins. Last time former teammates met in playoffs was when Cincinnati's Sam Wyche defeated Houston's Jack Pardee 41-14. Both played for Redskins from 1971-72.

# Instant offense

Despite their team-first mantra, the Falcons' fortunes rest largely on Vick's arms and legs

BY PAUL NEWBERY

The Associated Press

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. — Michael Vick and those around him keep repeating a familiar mantra: The Atlanta Falcons are a team.

Seriously. They're not kidding.

"Who's the best player on our team?" coach Jim Mora said. "I think if you take a poll of the nation, 100 percent of the people would say Mike Vick. Well, I'll tell you how our locker room feels: The best player on our team is our team."

Then again, the Falcons have perhaps the only player in the NFL who's capable of winning a game all by himself.

The Falcons get their first home playoff game since 1998 on Saturday against the St. Louis Rams. Rest assured, everyone at the Georgia Dome — both on the field and in the stands — will have an eye on No. 7.

"Mike is going to make plays," teammate DeAngelo Hall said. "Mike is going to be Mike, just like Michael Jordan was a team and player together. That's what is going to win the football game for us, I promise you."

Already suspect on defense, the Rams don't plan on letting Vick out of their sight. Stopping him could be another matter.

In Week 2, Vick had one of his best games of the season, rushing for 109 yards and completing 14 of 19 passes for 179 yards and leading the Falcons to a 34-17 victory over St. Louis.

"He's probably the best all-around player in the league," Rams coach Mike Martz said Wednesday. "Obviously, he's the best

playoff positioning all locked up. Vick sat out one game and played only 1½ quarters in the other. Even so, he finished with a staggering 902 yards on the ground, averaging 7½ yards per run.

If anyone is capable of upsetting the play-off balance, it's Vick.

"I do have the ability to make plays when we need them, with my feet, and that's just our advantage," he said. "At the same time, I've got to pick and choose my spots when I take off and run, make sure I give the guys downfield an opportunity to make plays in this game, too."

Not even Vick is capable of beating 11 guys all by himself.

Two years ago, after leading Atlanta to a playoff win at Green Bay's Lambeau Field, he wasn't much of a factor in a second-round loss to Philadelphia. The Falcons failed to score a touchdown as the Eagles held Vick to 30 yards rushing.

"People say I'm the X-factor and I'm the key to winning," he said. "I think the key to winning is our team coming to play as a team and playing together. That's what is going to win the football game for us, I promise you."

Already suspect on defense, the Rams don't plan on letting Vick out of their sight. Stopping him could be another matter.

In Week 2, Vick had one of his best games of the season, rushing for 109 yards and completing 14 of 19 passes for 179 yards and leading the Falcons to a 34-17 victory over St. Louis.

"He's probably the best all-around player in the league," Rams coach Mike Martz said Wednesday. "Obviously, he's the best



Atlanta quarterback Michael Vick (7), trying to elude Carolina linebacker Brandon Short in a game last October, rushed for 902 yards this season and averaged 7½ yards per carry.

athlete. You've got to account for him first and foremost."

Vick gives the Falcons an extra runner in the backfield, teaming with Warrick Dunn (1,106 yards, nine touchdowns) and T.J. Duckett (509 yards, eight TDs) to form the league's most prolific rushing attack.

"Defending them is like defending the option," Martz said. "That's something the NFL has not seen before. Everyone is scrambling around, trying to find a way to defend it or at least slow it down. I don't know if there's a way to do it."

While Mora has harped on the team theme all season, he's not naive. The rookie coach knows as well as anyone that he has a unique player, one who could make the difference between advancing in the playoffs or calling it a season.

"He draws attention," Mora said. "Every single time he takes a snap, he is a threat to beat you in a multitude of ways. He can throw the ball efficiently from the pocket, he can get out of the pocket and throw it, he can run it, he can stay alive for about three hours and throw it down the field, he goes to hand it off and he's a threat coming out on a bootleg the other way. So, he affects the game every time he touches it."

Every once in a while, someone inside the locker room will slip up and actually say what everyone on the outside is thinking.

Just listen to Hall, a corner back, as he assessed the matchup on the offensive side.

"We have one exciting player. He has an exciting offense," he said. "May be the man win."

When it comes to the Falcons, one man might be enough.

## Underdog Rams feeling energized

BY JIM THOMAS

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS — They are loose, refreshed and re-energized. Three weeks ago, when they were 6-8, most observers would have given a plug nickel for the Rams' chances of being in the NFL's version of the Elite Eight.

But here they are, like the uninvited guest who refuses to leave the party, just two steps removed from the Super Bowl. As they say in Las Vegas, the Rams are playing with house money now.

"We had those two must-win situations at the end of the regular season," defensive end Leonard Little said. "Two teams we had to beat."

And did beat. Doing so, and just getting into the playoffs, "was a lot of weight off our shoulders," Little said.

Better late — extremely late — than never, right? "We never doubted anything," tight end Cameron Cleeland said. "This team's been through turmoil. But look, the (Rams) have made to the playoffs." What? — four out of the last five years?

Actually, five of past six seasons.



St. Louis linebacker Pisa Tinoisua celebrates last Saturday's playoff victory at Seattle.

"We always believed," Cleeland said. "We just knew it."

Maybe so, but they did a good job of hiding it until Christ was on the field. You can call the victory over Philadelphia tainted, because the Eagles rested or pulled many of their starters.

The regular-season finale with the New York Jets was an intense, playoff-like struggle. And, of course, Saturday's 27-20 victory

over Seattle was an intense playoff struggle.

"These guys are energized," coach Mike Martz said. "It's as if the season has just begun in their minds."

The Rams' string of three consecutive victories matches their longest winning streak of the season and is the second-longest for any of the eight remaining playoff teams.

"For us right now, you just wouldn't want to have a (first-round) bye," Martz said. "In 10 years past, with the experience that we had, we were at a high level going into the playoffs, and you kind of wanted to rest your guys a little bit. That's not the case now."

After winning just two road contests during the regular season, the Rams are faced with the challenge of winning their second straight road playoff game.

Road teams won three of four contests over the just-completed wild-card weekend, but recent history shows that knocking off a first-round bye is nearly impossible in the NFC.

Since the current 12-team playoff format began in 1990, NFC

teams that have the first-round bye are 25-3 in the conference semifinals.

One of those three upsets occurred last Jan. 10, when the second-seeded Rams were upset at home by eventual NFC champion Carolina, 29-23 in double overtime. The only other NFC playoff teams with first-round byes to lose in the divisional round were Chicago (to Philadelphia) in the 2001 season, and San Francisco (to Green Bay) in 1995.

All three of those losing teams were No. 2 seeds. Atlanta also is a No. 2 seed. The Falcons are 7-1 at home this season, losing only to Detroit, 17-10, in Game 5.

So it's a tough task facing the Rams. But in the joyous visitors locker room in Seattle, all things seemed possible.

"It's great just being in the locker room with all these guys," offensive guard Tom Nutter said. "It's just like a big family. We went through some adversity through the season, but it's everybody got an extra energy boost coming into this week."

And what now?

"No holds barred," Nutter said. "We're good to go. We feel like we're peaking at just the right minute."

### St. Louis (9-8) at Atlanta (11-5)

OPENING LINE — Falcons by 7.  
RECORD VS. SPREAD — Rams 7-10. Falcons 7-1.

SERIES RECORD — Rams lead 46-24-2.  
LAST MEETING — Falcons beat Rams 34-17 on Sept. 13, 2004, at Atlanta.

LAST POSTSEASON MEETING — First postseason meeting.

LAST WEEK — Rams beat Seahawks 27-20 in wild-card game, Falcons had five lost to Seahawks 26-26 in Week 17.

RAMS OFFENSE — OVERALL (6), RUSH (29), PASS (6).

RAMS DEFENSE — OVERALL (17), RUSH (20), PASS (13).

FALCONS OFFENSE — OVERALL (20), RUSH (11), PASS (12).

FALCONS DEFENSE — OVERALL (14), RUSH (11), PASS (12).

KEY MATCHUP — Rams' defense vs. Falcons' offense. Rams' defense has allowed 109 yards on 12 carries and had 179 yards passing against Rams. Vick led NFL by averaging 7.5 yards per carry and rushed for 902 yards — only 21 900

had more. Rams' defense features five first-round picks. Three of the line it took most of season for unit to figure out. Rams' defense has allowed 109 yards on 12 carries and had 179 yards passing against Rams. Vick leads NFL's No. 1 rushing attack.

STRENGTHS AND NOTES — Against common opponents, Falcons are 6-3, while Rams are 7-3, including three wins over Seattle. Rams WR Torrey Holt was fourth in NFL with 1,272 yards receiving in regular season, becoming first NFL player to have five consecutive 1,200-yard seasons. He had his second 1,200-yard season in playoffs last week, posting six catches for 108 yards and a touchdown. Rams WR Isaac Bruce combined with most yards of any tight end in NFL season (52.6%). Falcons led league with 10 wins in 17 games.

Atlanta was plus-2 — Falcons CS Allen Roquem was different in NFL with 12.4-yard punt return average in regular season. Falcons RB Warren Gump posted third career 1,000-yard season (1,105) with career-high nine TDs rushing.

# Wie trails by nine after Sony's first round

The Associated Press

HONOLULU — First came a sinner tee shot with her driver — a low, penetrating flight into 25 mph gusts that went 275 yards.

For her next trick, Michelle Wie hit a knockdown 6-iron that stopped 6 feet away from a birdie. It was extraordinary stuff for anyone on the PGA Tour, let alone a 15-year-old girl.

"I didn't feel like I was playing with a 15-year-old girl," said Matt Davidson, who shot 77 in his PGA Tour debut while playing before a large gallery hanging on every shot Wie hit.

"She has all the tools to be out here," he said.

But by the end of the first round Thursday, Wie was happy just to save par. Stacked up against the men in the Sony Open, her 5-over 75 was less than ordinary.

## Sports briefs

Wie battled blustery conditions that led to the second-highest scoring at Waialae Country Club since it changed to a par 70 six years ago. She had a tougher time deciding how to gauge her performance.

She tied nine other men (Fred Funk, Paul Casey) and beat 15 others in the 144-player field. But she also was nine shots behind the leaders — Stewart Cink, Brett Quigley, Tom Byrum and Hank Kuehne — who each shot 66.

And she faced a tough task Friday trying to become the first female to make the cut on the PGA Tour since Babe Zaharias in the 1945 Tucson Open.

"It could have gone both ways,"

Wie said. "If my putting just went in, I think I would have shot an awesome round. But it could have gone a lot worse. I could have easily made five or six more bogeys. But I hung in there."

Her only consolation? "At least I'm not in last place," she said.

Wie last year opened with a 72 and followed that with a 68 — the lowest score by a female competing on a men's tour — to miss the cut by one shot.

Her 75 on Thursday put her in a tie for 120th (she was tied for 105th last year), and she was four shots below the projected cut line. Wie stayed on the practice range for nearly three hours after the round, knowing it might take her best to stick around on the weekend.

"If I end up at like 1 over par, maybe I'll make it," she said.

Only 29 players broke par, the fewest in seven years at Waialae.

Among them was Vijay Singh, the No. 1 player in the world, who had only three sub-par holes — one of them an eagle — and dropped back to 69 with a sloppy bogey on the par-5 18th.

## Federer, Davenport get top seeds for Australian Open

MELBOURNE, Australia — Defending champion Roger Federer and four-time winner Andre Agassi could meet in the quarterfinals of the Australian Open after both landed in the top quarter of Friday's draw for the season's first Grand Slam event.

Top-ranked Federer won the Australian Open, Wimbledon and U.S. Open last season, the first man since Mats Wilander in 1988 to win three of the season's four majors.

The 23-year-old Swiss star will open against Fabrice Santoro of France and could meet Thailand's Paradorn Srichaphan in the third round, Agassi in the quarterfinals and 2004 runner-up Marat Safin, seeded fourth, in the semifinals.

In the women's draw, top-ranked Lindsay Davenport, the 2000 champion, could meet eighth-seeded Venus Williams in the quarterfinals and French Open champion Anastasia Myskina, ranked third, in the semifinals.

The Australian Open champion in 1995, 2000, '01 and '03, is seeded eighth. But, his status for the championship was in doubt after he retired in the first set of a tuneup match against Andy Roddick on Thursday because of an injured right hip.

Agassi was scheduled to have tests on his hip Friday. After a private practice session late in the afternoon at Rod Laver Arena, Agassi asked organizers of the Kooyong exhibition tournament if he could play a match Saturday.

He will play Tim Henman in an exhibition following the final between Federer and Roddick.

Venus Williams, whose best performance at the Australian Open was a loss in the final to younger sister Serena two years ago, opens against Elena Dementieva of Greece, who reached a career-high ranking of 14th about 18 months ago.

Serena Williams, who won her fourth consecutive major at the '03 Australian Open, was drawn in the bottom quarter with second-ranked Amelie Mauresmo. Serena will open against Camille Pin in the first round. Pin finished last season ranked 98th.

The Open women's draw has been badly hit by injury. Last year's winner, Justine Henin-Hardenne pulled out last week with a knee injury. Kim Clijsters, who lost to Henin-Hardenne in the final, also is out with a persistent wrist injury. Jennifer Capriati, a two-time winner, said Wednesday she had withdrawn because of a recurring right shoulder injury.

## Leinart delays NFL decision

LOS ANGELES — Heisman Trophy winner Matt Leinart has delayed announcing whether he will return to Southern California for his senior season or turn pro, saying he will reveal his plans Friday.

"I need an extra day to continue gathering information," the USC quarterback said Thursday, the day he originally set as his deadline for the decision.

The NFL deadline for underclassmen to declare for the draft is Saturday.

Two other USC punters, linebacker Lofa Tatupu and junior Tom Malone, also are expected to say Friday whether they will enter the draft.

Leinart, 21, has consulted with coaches, friends, teammates, NFL quarterbacks Carson Palmer and Ben Roethlisberger and — most importantly, Leinart said — his own parents.

## Get The Sand Out Of Your Hair

Enter for a chance to win a 2005 Sportster 883 Custom  
at one of the following Exchange New Car Sales Locations\*

**Iraq** - Camp Victory /North Baghdad,  
Camp Anaconda /Balad, Camp Cooke/Taji,  
Al Asad, Camp Raider/Tikrit,  
Camp Renegade/Kirkuk  
**Kuwait** - Camp Doha, Camp Arifjan- Zone 1,  
Camp Arifjan- Zone 6, Ali Al Salim  
**Afghanistan** - Bagram, Kandahar  
**Qatar** - Al Udeid, Al Saliyah  
**Bahrain** - ASU Base/Manama  
**Dubai** - Al Dafra



**Special OIF/OEF pricing. Order here. Pick it up Stateside.**

If you are not able to visit our sales locations, you can receive sales assistance by contacting our Dubai office:

ENCME@militarycars.com • Tel: 971-4-2994470 • Fax: 971-4-2994477



\*No purchase necessary to enter. See complete rules and regulations at all sales locations. Army, Air Force and Navy personnel stationed on Military bases must be assigned for 90 days or more to qualify to purchase Harley-Davidson vehicles, 120 days or more during this special promotion period. All programs and guarantees are subject to terms and conditions. See your sales representative for details. All illustrations and specifications are to the best of our knowledge correct as of the date of publication. They are subject to changes made by the manufacturer and the laws and regulations of any federal, state or local government agency. Ford, General Motors, DaimlerChrysler Corporation, and Harley-Davidson are authorized contractors of AAFS & NEXCOM. Exchange New Car Sales is an authorized distributor to sell and distribute Ford, General Motors, Chrysler, Harley-Davidson and Honda vehicles. This advertisement does not imply endorsement by AAFS, NEXCOM, the DOD components or the Federal Government and is not sponsored by them. (H 201)



## SPORTS



Stronger steroid rules  
figure to get an  
immediate test, Page 25

# Armed for the playoffs



Clockwise, from top left, New England's Tom Brady, Indianapolis' Peyton Manning, Philadelphia's Donovan McNabb and Pittsburgh's Ben Roethlisberger lead their teams this weekend in the second round of the NFL playoffs. The remaining eight teams feature talented quarterbacks.

## Main focus this weekend is on Foxboro

BY DAVE GOLDBERG  
The Associated Press

Is there any NFL playoff game this weekend other than the one in New England?

You wouldn't know it from the buzz surrounding Sunday's contest in Foxboro featuring MVP Peyton Manning and the Colts against the Patriots, winners of two of the past three Super Bowls and five straight games over the record-breaking quarterback.

Yes, there are eight teams in the playoffs and three other games this weekend. They are outside the spotlight, though.

"We just worry about us," says Atlanta

coach Jim Mora, whose Falcons (11-5) are the NFC's second-seeded team and face visiting St. Louis on Saturday.

"Eventually we will be a blip on the radar screen. We certainly want to make sure we're on the radar screen for the right reasons if we ever do get above ground."

True enough. If there's a second game gaining attention, it's not for the right reasons. It's because Randy Moss pretended to moon Green Bay fans after scoring a touchdown last week for the Vikings, who play at Philadelphia in Sunday's early game.

Even Pittsburgh — which had the NFL's best record at 15-1 and unveiled the most suc-

cessful rookie quarterback ever in Ben Roethlisberger — has been carrying a low profile as it waits for the Jets in the opening game of the weekend.

Those games build up to late Sunday afternoon for Colts-Patriots.

The rematch of last year's AFC title game pits Manning, who broke Dan Marino's season record for touchdown passes with 49, against Tom Brady, who doesn't have great statistics but has two Super Bowl rings.

The comparisons: Manning is Marino, who set tons records but never won a Super Bowl. Brady is Joe Montana, who was so cool and collected and won four championships.

But that's a bit deceptive — Manning is only 28 and has time to accumulate hardware.

■ Young QBs figure to be under some heat in frosty Pittsburgh, Page 29

■ Atlanta's mercurial Vick remains the X-factor facing St. Louis, Page 30

SEE PLAYOFFS ON PAGE 28



**Bryant's severe ankle sprain sidelines Kobe vs. LeBron matchup in L.A.**

Page 27



**Unfazed by \$10,000 fine, embattled Viking shows no remorse for antics**

Page 28



**Williams' dominant half helps depleted Duke remain undefeated with a win at N.C. State**

Page 26